

Hafa Adai!

Extreme to exceptional drought continues for the CNMI. **Page 3**  
Kang, Park named top filmmakers at Int'l Thespian Festival. **PAGE 5**

75¢

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 137

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY JULY 13, 2020

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

## First COVID-19 case on Tinian

By JUSTINE NAUTA  
justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

There are two additional COVID-19 cases in the CNMI, including one from Tinian, making it the first case detected on that island. This raises the CNMI's total number of COVID-19 cases to 33.

According to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, the individual identified on Tinian was swabbed for specimen collection last July 11 soon after arriving at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The individual was confirmed positive in the evening of July 13.

According to a task force statement, the individual had  
**See TINIAN on Page 4**

### AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, July 12, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	309	1	310
Recovered	202	0	202
Active	102	1	103
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	17,000		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	31	2	33
Active	1	2	3
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	10,697**		

\*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

\*\*Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



### SEABEES ON TINIAN

Equipment Operator 3rd Class Thomas Jung, from Philadelphia, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion-3, moves a slab of concrete with a front-end loader for building an expeditionary-style camp on Tinian. U.S. Navy Seabees from NMCB-3 have taken over from NMCB-5's Detail Tinian during a relief in place/transfer of authority last June 29.

U.S. NAVY/MARCUS HENLEY

Story on  
Page 2

## 'There's nothing that we're going to hide'

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Finance Secretary David Atalig is prepared to answer the questions of lawmakers when he faces the House Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster Related Funding during an



Atalig

oversight hearing on July 20.

Atalig said in an interview he is confident that all the COVID-19 expenditures are justified, with "no wrongdoing."

**See HIDE on Page 4**

## Convicted murderer's parole is revoked, 3 applications denied, 2 others are granted

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Board of Parole has revoked the parole granted to convicted murderer Shawn Appleby, denied the parole applications of three inmates, and granted parole



Bradley

to two others, including one who attempted to set his girlfriend on fire.

At a hearing Friday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, BOP members unanimously revoked the parole

**See CONVICTED on Page 4**

## PSS online registration now open

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Public School System recently launched its online registration for new enrollees and returning students.

Parents may now register their children for School Year 2020-2021 from the comfort

and safety of their home by simply registering their personal emails with their child's school or via their child's school email.

For parents to access the re-enrollment form through their personal email, they must first contact their child's school to

**See PSS on Page 4**

### INSIDE



#### BUSINESS

Matson, Inc. has christened its second of two new vessels as Matsonia.

**PAGE 11**



#### NATION

President Donald Trump wears a mask for the first time in public.

**PAGE 12**



#### LIFE & STYLE

"Glee" star Naya Rivera is believed to have drowned in a Southern California lake.

**PAGE 15**



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



**GOT A NEWS TIP?**

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com



## Local

## New Seabees unit takes over sister battalion on Tinian

By **MARCUS HENLEY**  
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION 3

**TINIAN**—U.S. Navy Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion-3 assumed authority of all tasking from NMCB-5's Detail Tinian during a relief in place/transfer of authority last June 29.

Seabees from NMCB-5 are finally going home after completing an extended deployment, and NMCB-3 Sea-

bees stand ready to take over from their sister battalion and drive operations on the island. The lengthy stay on Tinian stemmed from the unforeseen coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, which created a delay in efforts to return home due to stringent local, national, and international protective travel restrictions starting in late March.

Seabees from NMCB-3 deployed to Tinian to take

over work for improvements to the island's infrastructure while strengthening community relationships in the area. The Seabees will be working on building an expeditionary-style camp to support current and future deployed battalion efforts to improve a harbor and various roads throughout the island.

Travel restrictions were revisited in late May and NMCB-3 was given permis-

sion to relieve its sister battalion. After complementing one 14-day restriction of movement period prior to deployment in the U.S. and another ROM period in Guam, NMCB-3 reached Tinian soil in mid-June and worked with NMCB-5 to achieve an accurate and successful turnover to officially begin mission essential work on the island.

"After completing ROM requirements in California and

Guam, we were eager to go out of the gate to get things done," said Lt. j.g. Aaron Ignacio, officer-in-charge of NMCB-3's Detail Tinian. "Attitudes were very positive between the battalions and we meshed really well with NMCB-5. We really did all we could to help push this turnover forward because they were ready to go and we were ready to get to work."

After months of uncertainty, NMCB-5's Detail Tinian was ready to turn over the reins.

Lt. Patrick Daniele, officer-in-charge of NMCB-5's Detail Tinian, said his Seabees are proud of the construction and community relations work they have accomplished, and proud to have done all they could to set NMCB-3 up for success.

"We're all now very excited to get back to our family and friends knowing that we made the best of the situation for the Island and for NMCB-3," said Daniele.

With their deployment coming to a close, Seabees from NMCB-5 were able to reflect on the work they accomplished despite delays from COVID-19. NMCB-5's role on the island of Tinian involved infrastructure improvement and community relations. They found they were able to accomplish more than expected in terms of the latter.

"When we first got out here, we had our tasking," said Daniele, "but because of delays,

we were able to get more involved in the community. We built a jungle gym at the children's park and were involved in a lot of community-based projects. We received an award from Tinian's Mayor's Office as well as an emotional goodbye. The things we take for granted are huge and impactful here. As far as project tasking, we met what we could, and as far as community relationships go, we've excelled."

When NMCB-3 Seabees arrived on scene, they knew accuracy and speed were equally important to get NMCB-5 back to their families in a timely manner while ensuring a solid foundation for NMCB-3 to get to work. Builder 2nd Class James Gilson, assigned to NMCB-3, echoed Ignacio's eagerness to start off strong.

"Turnover went rather smoothly, and we were able to be ahead of schedule," said Gilson. "We worked as quickly and efficiently as we could to get NMCB-5 home."

NMCB-3 Seabees are happy to be back on Tinian. Last year, along with other U.S. Indo-Pacific Command units, NMCB-3 provided relief efforts after the island was devastated by Super Typhoon Yutu, which struck in late 2018. The Seabees were part of a roof-repair and recovery mission to restore many of the resident's homes to habitable conditions.



PRINT + ONLINE + FB PAID PARTNERSHIP

# ADVERTISE

*with us!*

Call 670.235-8747  
[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

*Hofa Adail*  
Keyes Lopez shoreline fishing interview PAGE 2  
Construction manager was also allegedly trafficking 'ice' PAGE 3

**Saipan Tribune**  
75¢  
THE FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Guam launches website  
DEQ director Masga is CUC's new manager for oil

Plan ahead with a checking account that does the same.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mount Carmel School congratulates 2016 AlumKnight, Jonathan Pangelinan, son of Joseph and Maricel Pangelinan, who graduated with magna cum laude honors from Seattle University with a degree in Computer Science. As a student at Mount Carmel, he was active in National Honor Society, Dance Club, Theatre Club, Mock Trial, and American Red Cross. At Seattle University, he was active in the United Filipino Club, Marianas Taotao Tano Club, and Computer Science Club. He has also distinguished himself with internships and work at leading tech firms like Astronics AES and Avanade.



# Extreme to exceptional drought continues for the CNMI

A dry pattern is expected to persist in the next couple of weeks across the Marianas.

In an advisory issued by the CNMI Homeland Security

and Emergency Management Agency over the weekend, it said that rainfall remains below adequate for Guam and the CNMI despite several trop-

ical upper tropospheric trough cells passing near Saipan and thunderstorms near Guam.

"Little change is expected in the next couple weeks with

much-needed deep tropical moisture keeping well to the south. Ten-day rainfall totals for Guam and the CNMI are consistent around 1.5 inches. Favorable upper-level conditions and/or island-effect convection with light winds will be key to locally higher rainfall in the coming weeks," the advisory stated.

Officials across the CNMI

report water levels are still above thresholds for concern, though.

The advisory also states that a relatively wet trade wind pattern persists across parts of Micronesia, as has been the case the last couple weeks. Very dry conditions continue across the Marianas and that westward-moving upper-level disturbances have passed near

or just north of Saipan, triggering some showers across Saipan and Tinian, but still below average rainfall has been received. Farther south, Guam has seen a couple days with island-effect convection, generating afternoon showers and thunderstorms. However, easterlies were just enough to push this weather offshore to the west, allowing for below-average rainfall over the island. (PR)

## Limited flights stymie planned CEC board meeting

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Limited interisland flights caused the cancellation of the Commonwealth Election Commission's board meeting which was tentatively planned for last Wednesday.

CCC executive director Julita A. Villagomez also announced Thursday that they are now open on Fridays, except during holidays, from 8am to 4pm.

Villagomez said they are open even during lunch hour.

CEC has been accepting the filing of submission of petitions and candidacies since last Monday for the upcoming Nov. 3 general elections. As of yesterday afternoon, no one has filed yet.

Aug. 5 is the deadline to submit nominating petition and candidacy.

On the board meeting's cancellation, the executive director said Tinian and Rota flights are only thrice a week so the directors have to wait in line to make reservation. She

said they have no schedule yet when to hold a board meeting.

Villagomez also disclosed that there are three vacant commissioner's positions, all for Saipan.

Currently there are five commissioners: two for Saipan, two for Rota, and one for Tinian. They have a quorum because they need only five commissioners, and one at least for each island.

Jesus I. Sablan of Saipan is the current CEC board chairman.

## 3 handle 35 dogs at Saipan animal shelter

By **IVA MAURIN**  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office animal shelter program currently has 25 adult dogs and 10 puppies, and only three people are manning the program: the manager and two stray dog handlers. Aside from that, there is no money to buy food for the animals, according to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang.

At the hearing for the Saipan Mayor's Office's budget last week, Apatang painted this bleak state of the animal shelter for lawmakers, who had asked about the current state of the animal shelter in As Perdido, and an update on the new shelter that still has yet to be put up.

Apatang said the food that the shelter currently has are

donated by the Guam-based non-profit, Guam Animals In Need. At the moment, the shelter has 70 bags of dog food and seven bags of cat food.

Despite this, Apatang said they are trying to manage and maintain the As Perdido shelter, to make sure that they take care of all the animals that they have. The mayor also mentioned that veterinarian Ignacio T. Dela Cruz volunteers at the shelter and provides veterinary services.

Responding to concerns about how the animals are taken care of, Dog Control Program manager Martin Pangelinan explained that they have a routine where, after every morning's briefing at the mayor's office, the staff goes to the shelter, feed the animals, and wash the kennels before responding to service requests

in the community.

As for the new shelter, Apatang said that they are currently waiting on the U.S. Corps of Engineers to approve the project and give them a go-signal on when to start. The Saipan Mayor's Office has already secured funds for this from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and had some local funding to add to the project, but had to wait for almost a year to secure the environmental permit.

Apatang also said they met with the Department of Public Works to discuss his concerns about possibly rebidding the project and the possibility of prices having gone up, having waited for almost two years since the bidding.

"Hopefully, we can come up with a good decision," he added.

## Mendiola appeals to Legislature to secure DFEMS salaries

By **IVA MAURIN**  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Dennis James C. Mendiola spoke before the House Ways and Means Committee last Thursday to appeal to lawmakers to secure the salaries and fringe benefits of the department's personnel.

Speaking at the budget hearing, Mendiola said, "I think all of you understand the magnitude of our responsibility in this community. ... [I am] appealing to you to just please consider our department, our agency, and our personnel. The greatest asset I have in this department is the personnel."

The Office of the Governor is proposing to allocate \$3.5 million to the DFEMS next fiscal year—\$2 million below the department's original proposal, which is \$5.5 million. The governor's proposed budget, according to Office of Management and Budget special assistant Virginia Villagomez, is inclusive of the 64-hour pay period, but does not include other sources of income, such as revolving funds.

Mendiola explained that he understands the current economic state of the CNMI, and so the only thing he needs is for his personnel to be secured through the budget allocation. For operational resources, they can consider alternate sources of funding, he said. As for DFEMS' revolving fund, Mendiola said they are also projecting this to go down. "It might look like we have a lot in the revolving fund but I just want to remind [everyone] that...we've been having customers not renew business licenses or their fire permit because they're not sure if they're going to open up their

business. I just want to remind the body of that notion."

DFEMS has 123 employees. Twenty-seven are on Rota and 23 on Tinian. Their hours are also reduced to 96 from 106.

Ten employees have already been furloughed. Thirty of their personnel are part of the COVID-19 Task Force where a total of over 106 people are being paid out of COVID-19 funds. Mendiola said they are planning to recall the DFEMS staff to regular duty because the department is incurring more overtime cost for employees who are taking up the slack for these 30 at the COVID-19 Task Force. "Because we deployed 30 personnel, now we're incurring a lot

more overtime. So the plan is to try and bring these guys back," he said.

Due to COVID-19, there has been a 20% increase in ambulance responses, plus the search and rescue missions for DFEMS that range from three days to a week.

Mendiola further stressed that DFEMS needs to operate on 106 hours, to ensure 100% responding capability from the four stations that they man. "If we were to cut hours or personnel, that will be impacted, we will have to close either a station or not man [a station], for that matter. That's the risk that comes on us. In order to maximize the probability of somebody living, we want to respond to them as soon as possible," he added.

## Have Medicaid Dental Insurance?

- We would love to see you! No long waits, and Walk-ins always welcome. **Kind & Gentle Team!**
- We treat our patients like family. Join us for a cup of coffee today. Best AirCon and free Wi-Fi!
- **Hawaii Dental Service (HDS), StayWell, TakeCare, CIGNA & Calvos insurances also accepted!**

AWARD-WINNING  
DENTISTS

DR. NELSON KRUM  
DR. RICHARD ARBUCKLE



Paradise Dental



Middle Road, Gualo Rai  
**234-4040**

paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com  
www.paradisedentalspa.com

# Anniversary Sale

**JULY 12-31, 2020**

**OPEN EVERYDAY OF THE YEAR, PROVIDING PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION AND HEALTHCARE ESSENTIALS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CNMI FOR OVER 24 YEARS.**

**35% OFF**

SUPPLEMENTS, VITAMINS & SPORTS NUTRITIONAL PRODUCTS

**25% OFF**

ALL OTC ITEMS

**50% OFF**

ON SELECTED ITEMS

**Kagman Branch**  
(Kagman Commercial Building)  
Tel. (670) 256-0131  
Fax (670) 256-0134  
Mon-Fri: 8am - 6pm  
Sat - Sun: CLOSED

**Dandan (Joeten Dandan Center)**  
Tel. (670) 323-5000/01  
235-6170/74  
Fax (670) 235-6180  
Mon-Fri: 8am - 6pm  
Sat-Sun: 8am - 4pm

Visit us on [www.facebook.com/phiparmacy](https://www.facebook.com/phiparmacy)  
PHI Pharmacy...the pharmacy you can trust!



## CONVICTED

From Page 1

of 40-year-old Appleby for violating parole conditions and committing new crimes.

The day before, the parole board denied the applications of John C. Hamilton, 33; Demson Sachuo, 19; and Ronnie San Nicolas, 25. It granted, however, the parole applications of Vincent S.N. Norita, 34, and John Piteg Teregeyo, 26.

Chief Prosecutor John Bradley said yesterday the board's decision should be respected. "We aren't always going to agree whether an inmate is ready or not for early release. But the responsibility for making that difficult decision falls on the board members and should be respected," he said.

Nonetheless, he assured that the Office of the Attorney General will be watching closely to make sure that any violations are quickly handled to best protect victims and public safety.

The parole board is composed of Ramon B. Camacho, Ignacio Mendiola, Jose C. Camacho, Michael M. San Nicolas, and Vicente Borja, with Ramon B. Camacho as board chairman.

Saying that public safety should be the primary concern of BOP members, the OAG earlier urged the revocation of Appleby's parole and strongly opposed granting parole to the five other inmates.

In Appleby's case, the revocation hearing pushed through Friday even

as Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja denied that same day Appleby's attempt to stop the BOP from going through with the revocation proceedings.

Appleby had a parole revocation hearing after being arrested last March 24 for domestic violence, according to BOP documents. According to the report of Parole Officer Jason A. Lizama, Appleby was arrested for domestic violence and disturbing the peace at his home in Dandan. Lizama said the victim in this case is a parolee herself.

Among the conditions of Appleby's parole is that he shall not engage in criminal conduct. Other parole conditions is that Appleby shall not associate with persons engaged in criminal activities or with persons that have been convicted of a crime.

The BOP allowed Appleby's release in September 2019, despite the OAG's and the Parole Office's opposition to giving him parole.

Appleby was serving a 42-year sentence for first-degree murder and escape.

Bradley earlier said that Appleby is not suitable for parole, that he has served less than half of his sentence and has slightly over 24 years remaining. He was previously granted parole in February 2011, only for it to be revoked in December 2012.

Bradley pointed out Appleby has previously admitted that he drinks alcohol and uses crystal meth, and that this admitted use of meth could potentially result in future criminal acts.

A report from the Department of

Corrections also showed that Appleby was sanctioned in 2012 and 2014, and was placed in isolation for violations such as disrespect to staff, and possession of tobacco, Bradley said.

Appleby is serving a 40-year sentence for killing Byung Ok Suh in November 1996 after robbing the victim's store, Chalan Market, in San Antonio. The victim was shot.

Appleby bolted from the Department of Corrections twice, in 1999 and 2007, adding two more years to his 40-year prison term.

In Hamilton's case, he broke into the home of a family that included a child. The family was at home at the time. When confronted, Hamilton injured that person with a screwdriver. He was convicted of burglary and sentenced to 10 years confinement, only two years suspended. He has served six and a half years.

In addition, Hamilton has a prior arrest for driving under the influence that was resolved by a guilty plea for reckless driving. He also admits to being a meth user.

In Sachou's case, he and three friends burglarized the house of a single mother soon after Super Typhoon Yutu. He was convicted of burglary and sentenced to 10 years. Only two years of that confinement is unsuspended. He has only served one year.

In San Nicolas' case, he was convicted of two offense of drug trafficking. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison, four years suspended. He has served only a little over two and a half years of the eight years confine-

ment. "San Nicolas was not a typical meth addict. He was a high-level drug trafficker. He is a serious criminal," Bradley had said.

With respect to Norita, he was convicted of multiple counts of theft, reckless driving, speeding, improper signal, illegal U-turn, failure to obey traffic sign, driving on right side of highway, eluding a police officer, accident, and tampering with a vehicle. He was sentenced to nine years in prison. Norita has served only about three and one-half years of his sentence.

Given the seriousness of this crime and his long criminal history, Norita should remain in prison, Bradley said.

In Teregeyo's case, he was con-

victed of arson and assault and battery. Bradley said the crimes involved domestic violence, as Teregeyo attacked his girlfriend.

Teregeyo was sentenced to 11 years in prison, six years suspended. He has served two and a half years on the five years unsuspended portion of the sentence.

Bradley said Teregeyo tried to kill his girlfriend by setting her on fire and preventing her from running away.

"This is a very serious crime that could have resulted in the death of the victim by burning," he pointed out.

While serving his sentence, Teregeyo had two violations in 2019, Bradley added.

## PSS

From Page 1

register their email address. Once the email has been registered, an email notification will be sent to proceed with the enrollment process.

Parents can find the school's number at [www.cnmipssoare.org/district/our-schools](http://www.cnmipssoare.org/district/our-schools).

If parents don't want to register their email with the school, parents or guardians may use their child's mycnmipss.org email. Students will be issued a new email address using the mycnmipss.

org domain and parents must log into their child's email account to activate it before July 14. Parents without a registered email to their child's school will temporarily use this email to access the re-enrollment form link.

Additional forms that parents or guardians must submit include CNMI PSS eligible student consent form, emergency medical treatment form, FERPA opt out form, school zone waiver request form, and updated PSS student.

For more information, visit [www.cnmipssoare.org/district/online-registration](http://www.cnmipssoare.org/district/online-registration).

## TINIAN

From Page 1

just transited through Saipan and immediately left for Tinian but then immediately returned to Saipan for additional testing and monitoring. It is unclear why the individual was allowed to leave for Tinian before the result came out.

The other individual was also swabbed and screened for specimen collection last July 11 and was confirmed positive last July 13 at night.

Both new cases are now in isolation at the quarantine site at Kanoa Resort in Susupe where CHCC is monitoring the two. Additionally, CHCC has done contact tracing for the two's most immediate contacts such as passengers on the same flight, close family members, friends, and associates.

"Many interventions are in place to protect the community from the spread of COVID-19 within the CNMI, and care for those who are diagnosed. Our recent cases, identified through the CNMI Mandatory Declaration Form and COVID-19 testing required for all incoming international passengers, highlights the value of this border containment effort. Combined with immediate contact tracing, these interventions are key in minimizing the risk of exposure for COVID-19 to the community," said the statement.

In addition to the two new cases, a source told *Saipan Tribune* that one individual had to be arrested as the person refused to be quarantined. When asked about this, Esther Muna, CHCC's chief executive officer, said that CHCC and the task force had an issue with someone refusing to quarantine, but he is now in quarantine as of July 11. There was no further information about this

as of press time yesterday.

To date, the CNMI has a total of 33, cases with two deaths and three active cases.

### COVID-19 in Guam

According to the Joint Information Center in Guam, one service member that traveled to Andersen Air Force Base last July 11 on a government flight was confirmed positive for COVID-19.

The service member presented a sample for COVID-19 testing in an earlier flight from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Washington and displayed no COVID-19 symptoms before boarding the flight.

"Officials at Andersen AFB were notified of the positive test result while the flight was en route to Guam. Immediately after processing at Andersen AFB, the COVID-positive service member was placed into isolation and all other military and civilian passengers were placed into quarantine in Department of Defense-supervised facilities," said JIC.

Additionally, all passengers remain in mandatory quarantine for a minimum of 14 days in accordance with the Department of Defense and Guam government public health protocols. Military public health investigators are currently conducting contact tracing to determine where this member may have contracted the virus.

The case is not currently included in the Department of Public Health and Social Services official overall count. A determination will be made on whether the positive case will be included.

To date, Guam has had a total of 312 confirmed cases, with five deaths, 202 released from isolation, and 105 active cases. Of those cases, 266 are classified as civilians and 46 are military service members.

## HIDE

From Page 1

ing or favoritism, or anything of that matter."

"I'm prepared to answer any questions that the committee has. There's nothing that we're going to hide. We will share what exactly we're spending and show the reasons why we spend what we spend," he said.

Atalig said he tried his best to control the expenses as much as he can, and not repeat any "lessons learned" from the time when Super Typhoon Yutu hit the CNMI in 2018, when critics questioned overtime payments, government contracts, etc.

"We controlled overtime, we controlled labor. I know we have expenses and labor but maybe a couple million dollars compared to the overall cost of COVID-19 expenditures. I'm confident that the questions that they will ask will be answered truthfully, and find no discrepancies in such that is anything illegal, so to speak," Atalig said.

The committee is reviewing the CNMI government's expenses related to COVID-19 operations, and has on hand documents, including a list of employees receiving supplemental payment related to COVID-19 operations, as well as contracts the CNMI government has entered into. The committee received last week new documents related to the additional contracts and registry for the supplemental pay.

Committee chair Rep. Ralph Yu-

mul (R-Saipan) said copies of the documents will be provided to committee members for review.

### Overtime

Last April, the Office of Personnel Management of the Civil Service Commission issued a memorandum that waived the "exempt" status of 27 employees, and authorized payment for the extra hours they performed under the CNMI's COVID-19 operations, beginning April 17, at the rate of "1.0 x the basic hourly rate of pay."

Included are five employees from the CNMI Homeland, four from the Department of Public Safety, nine from the Department of Finance, three from the Department of Commerce, two from the Department of Public Works, two from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, one from the Department of Corrections, and one from the Public Assistance Office.

The governor's senior policy adviser, Robert Hunter, is part of that list. Hunter was called in by the COVID-19 Task Force to put staffing together for Kanoa Resort, which serves as the quarantine facility in the CNMI, and for mass care at Pacific Islands Club.

In an interview, Hunter said he did not get paid overtime but got paid an additional amount for the times he logged in to do COVID-19 work at the quarantine facility. "In the case of the COVID-19, where I was concerned, I can't speak for every other group or government office, I was simply paid an additional, slight additional amount for those times that I

logged in at the quarantine [facility]. That's it."

Hunter also explained that there were initially 15 people on their team in six-hour shifts during 24/7 operation, in an attempt to not over-expose them, given the virus cases, and that soon after the first positive case was reported in the CNMI, this number further decreased.

"When I hear overtime, I actually am kind of offended by that because we didn't work over 40 hours during the work week, which anytime after that then becomes overtime. ...We look at that as hazard pay. It wasn't 2.5, it wasn't 1.5, we were initially thought it would probably be .5, it ended up at 1," he said.

### Reassignment of duties

According to press secretary Kevin Bautista, there is a misperception about what reassignment means within a disaster.

"When we fill out a Category B form, that is considered an authorized reassignment of duties. I am no longer the press secretary for the Governor's Office, he is no longer the secretary for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. He's now the CNMI mass care coordinator, I am now the CNMI COVID-19 communications director," Bautista said. "At that point, that's considered an authorized, in line with [Federal Emergency Management Agency] standards as well, about us authorized to receive compensation for COVID pay."

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)



# Kang, Park named top filmmakers at Int'l Thespian Festival

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Ryan Kang and James Park of Marianas High School were both recognized as the top filmmakers in this year's International Thespian Festival that was held virtually from June 22 to 26.

According to Harold Easton, chapter director of Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands, the highlight of this year's International Thespian Festival for Team CNMI was the awarding of the top film recognition to MHS animation filmmakers Kang and Park.

"This recognition marks the No. 1 film presenter in the festival and [is acknowledged] at the 'The International Excellence Awards Showcase' at the close of the festival. This is the second year members of the MHS filmmaking team have been recognized as the No. 1 in film," he said.

Kang and Park topped 2,400 students from 46 states and eight countries who participated in the virtual event.

Kang and Park said they started working on their ani-

mated film in October 2019.

"We brainstormed multiple ideas and decided on one to work with. Afterwards, we held weekly meetings outside of school to solely focus on the video," Kang said.

Park said they spent most of their time modeling characters using vectors from different sources, and creating objects for an eye-popping experience.

"In every regional competition, we took the judges' feedback into great consideration, and further developed and updated our video to make our message more compelling and our animation more interesting," he said.

Both Kang and Park said that the COVID-19 pandemic stopped their work for a while, but they regularly met online to prepare for the festival.

Kang and Park's animated film, *A White World*, was the only entry featured on the main stage. The film was about e-cigarettes/vape use among teens, and received high ratings during the festival.

The CNMI team included participants from Marianas High School and Dandan Mid-

dle School.

## AWARDS

### Technical Theatre and Film

**James Park and Ryan Kang - Film (Animation):** Excellent with one overall Superior ballot, plus significant Superior ratings in various categories on the other two ballots.

**Vladimir Palma and Vivian Liu - Film (Documentary):** Excellent with a Superior Evaluation in Cinematography, Audio and Editing

**Jody Coloma - Theater Marketing:** Excellent

**Carlyne Ada and Katherine Magat - Short Film:** Submission being reevaluated by the Education Theatre Association

### Performances

**Bernice Shane Sabino - Solo Musical:** All Superior rated ballots

**Boni Gio Sagana - Solo Musical:** Excellent and one overall Superior ballot

**Jonathan Wolf and Anastacia Shamanaeva - Duet Acting:** Excellent with a Superior evaluation in acting transitions and voice.

**Betty Matson - Solo Musical:** Excellent

### College Call Backs

**Bonnie Gio Sagana of MHS**

- Drama Major, scholarship offer from Midland University in Nebraska. He received call backs from other 20 colleges, including Loyola New Orleans, Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, Columbia College Chicago, New York Conservatory of Dramatic Arts, AMDA in New York City, Southern Missouri State University, Carroll College in Montana, Ohio University, Webster University in Missouri, Nebraska Wesleyan, Hussian College, Ohio Northern University, University of

Arizona, Drake University, Berry College, St. Mary's University in Minnesota, Carthage College in Chicago, The New School - College of Performing Arts, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and Catawba College.

**Macy Manzaneres of MHS**

- Drama Minor, received call backs from Oklahoma City University, University of Arizona - Tier 1 University, The New School - College of Performing Arts, Pacific Conservatory for the Performing Arts, Cornish College of Arts, Carthage College, and AMDA College.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>  
Tel Nos. 670-234-6866/234-9447; Fax No: 670-234-9021



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR)

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, INDIVIDUALS, AGENCIES AND GROUPS:

Notice is hereby given that the Office of the Governor through NMHC is soliciting for citizen input and suggestions for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Action Plan commencing on June 19, 2020 to July 20, 2020. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) will receive \$243,946,000 as a result of Disaster Nos. 4396 and 4404. Not less than \$195,157,000 must be utilized in HUD-identified "most impacted and distressed" areas of Tinian and Saipan. The main purpose of this public notice is to inform the public about program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of disaster recovery funds as a result of Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu.

All citizens are encouraged to provide input on how the CDBG-DR funds will be allocated and used. The purpose of CDBG-DR funding is to address significant unmet needs for long-term recovery. There is an array of eligible activities for CDBG-DR funding that include:

- Housing
- Disaster Relief
- Long Term-Recovery
- Restoration of Infrastructure
- Economic Revitalization

Further information on the program and Action Plan may be obtained by contacting Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director or Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation at 670-234-6866/9447 or by visiting NMHC's website at [www.nmhc.gov.net](http://www.nmhc.gov.net). Written comments may be faxed to fax no. (670) 234-9021, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to email address [cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhc.gov.net](mailto:cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhc.gov.net).

/s/  
Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern  
Mariana Islands

/s/  
Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern  
Mariana Islands

## NEWS BRIEFS

### 4.6-magnitude quake in Guam

At 5:50am on July 12, 2020, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred 26 kilometers east-southeast of Inarajan Village, Guam. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. (PR)

### EIP records to be destroyed

The Public School System Early Intervention Program would like to inform parents of infants and toddlers who received Early Intervention Services at the Children's Developmental Assistance Center from 2013 to 2016 that your child's records are no longer needed by the program and therefore will be destroyed in a manner that ensures all personal identifiers are removed from the record and the record is no longer personally identifiable.

The Early Intervention Pro-

gram will maintain indefinitely a permanent record of your child's name, address, phone numbers, entry date, exit date, and eligibility information. Records, other than the permanent information listed above, will be destroyed 30 days from the date of this notice.

For any other information, call Robin Palacios, director, Early Intervention Program, at 664-4841. (PR)

### Scheduled power interruption on Wednesday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a power interruption on Wednesday, July 15, from 8:30am to 12:30pm in As Perdido, to allow CUC linemen to replace high voltage power line pin insulators on 20 power poles. CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the area. For more information, contact the CUC hotline at 236-4333. (PR)

## SPACE FOR RENT

Located at Middle Road corner  
Quarter Master, Chalan Laulau

Office – 3,200 sq. ft.

Warehouse – 6,000 sq. ft.



**WUSHIN**  
Since 1983 Committed to Safety Excellence

Please call us at 322-8733/7415 or send email to  
[wushin2@pticom.com](mailto:wushin2@pticom.com) for more inquiry.



# DFEMS: We will not always meet everyone's standards

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services insists that the CNMI has the resources to effectively conduct rescue missions, and criticisms of how it does that will not meet everyone's standards.

Speaking at the budget hearing of the House Ways and Means Committee at the Legislature, DFEMS Commissioner Dennis Mendiola assured last Thursday that

DFEMS has the resources to capably carry out rescue missions like the case of Honorio Encabo, who was swept out to sea last July 5 and remains lost. "The resources are there. It's just never to anyone's standard for that matter. We've got two boats, we've got...10 to 15 guys doing search and rescue but, of course, we've got a large water that we have to cover and, unless I'm allowed to deploy the entire department—but I don't think that will help the situ-

ation and, in fact, it will be more of a risk for me because now there's more people that I have to be concerned about in the water," he said.

However, in Encabo's case, Mendiola said DFEMS sent out four to seven men to join the Department of Public Safety in the search and rescue because both of their rescue boats are currently down.

"Currently we have our rescue divers mobilized in conjunction with DPS because that's all we can mobilize at

the moment. We have a rescue boat and a fire boat that are both down. One has battery issues that requires us to order batteries from off island and then our fire boat, the entire steering is shot, so we're waiting for funds...to fix that. But we are working with DPS. Our guys are currently deployed to do the rescue mission. I have around four to seven guys, depending on whether they're doing land, surface, or underwater search," he said.

Mendiola said the department has been doing a good job in carrying out search and rescue missions, specifically the diving part of the mission. "As far as I'm concerned, we have professionals doing the job and they're doing a great job at it. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion but the guys are doing everything they can to find this missing person. I don't think anybody in the department, Department of Public Safety, or DFEMS for that matter, is trying to short-change the family in regards to our capabilities," he said.

As of Thursday last week, Encabo remains missing, with only his torn swimwear being found by diver Harry Blalock as the search and rescue neared its 72-hour mark. According to DPS protocol, the search for a person missing at sea will be called off after 72-hours of searching.

"DPS is taking the lead. Our guys are doing the rescue diving part...The way it works is that our drivers get dropped off, they do the dive while DPS is doing their search around the perimeter and making sure



Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Dennis James C. Mendiola speaks during the budget hearing of the House Ways and Means Committee last Thursday.

IVA MAURIN

that they keep in contact with our guys and not lose them so we don't have other rescue is-

sues because we don't have a boat. We don't have those capabilities," Mendiola said.

## Mercado re-elected as Saipan Fil-American Lions president

By **CHEVY ALIPIO**  
alipiochevykate@gmail.com  
REPORTER

Eden Mercado was re-elected as president of the Saipan Fil-American Lions for the year 2020-2021 in a virtual election held last month. She will serve a term from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.

"I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all our members placing their trust and confidence in my ability to lead our club once again. It is indeed my great honor and privilege to accept the position," said Mercado.

She also cited Annamae Adaza, the outgoing region chairwoman, for guiding her and always being behind the scenes for the entire year.

Other officers elected were Maria Huliganga, who was elected first vice president, Milagros Pellegrino was elected second vice president, Mario Mayuga is secretary, May Sante is assistant secretary, Avelina Reyes was elected treasurer, Mildred Pabilando is the assistant treasurer, Arman Amog was elected auditor, and Maria Adaza was elected LCIF coordinator.

Maria Labadan was elected club membership chair, Ernesto Molina Jr. was elected club service chair, Leonila Mendoza was elected club marketing communications chair, Teogenes Mendoza was elected

the lion tamer, Anna Mercado was elected tail twister, Rhose Prado was elected club director, Jean Pumatong and Lucilita Sante were elected first year directors, Cielita Cascasan and Edmin Elayda were elected second year directors, and Arturo Ancheta, Raul Dolotina, Jaime Peralta, Segundo Lapeceros Jr, and Alex Amaro were elected safety officers.

"To all elected officers and members, our current situation may be a bit challenging due to pandemic, but we have proven that we can still serve our com-

munity in our little ways, and we will continue doing so as we fulfill together our Lions' theme, 'United in Kindness and Diversity,' Mercado said.

Mayuga said the club is still in the planning stage on their induction. "It is a huge challenge now to plan for activities due to the new normal that we are embracing, [while] adopting all the health protocols."

Additionally, the club has several projects lined up but they are prioritizing those that will not require much funding. "We are receiving some donations, though, and we are making sure that we give that to our community."

Those who want to join the Lions Club may call Mercado at 788-2416 or Mayuga at 285-1021. To learn more about the Lions Club International, visit [www.lionsclub.org](http://www.lionsclub.org).



Mercado

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122  
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL.: 670-234-6457  
FAX: 670-234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

DONALD BUFTON,  
Plaintiff, )  
-v- ) CIVIL ACTION  
SAMUEL RAYBURN, ) NO. 04-0043  
Defendant. )

**NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on October 12, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:

Lot no. 012 B 08, situated in Calabera, Saipan Northern Mariana Islands, containing 39,297 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 012 B 01, which was registered with the Land Registry as Document no. 1466 on the 15th of March, 1972.

Total Area of the property:  
39,297 square meters

Known encumbrances:  
The interest to be sold is a fully—prepaid leasehold interest which expires on May 31, 2042. There are no other known valid encumbrances materially affecting title.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale: The sale will be held on Friday, August 7, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale: The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 6th day of July, 2020:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Oliver M. Manglona (F0489)  
Attorney at Law  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 285-3750 | Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Allen Pedro Kumagai Castro

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

Civil Action No. 20-0211

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:**

ARLETTE CASTRO PARK, )  
Deceased. )

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON VERIFIED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR; and**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Judge: JOSEPH N. CAMACHO

Date: July 23, 2020  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Courtroom: Supreme Court Courtroom

**TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE ARLETTE CASTRO PARK:**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner Allen Pedro Kumagai Castro has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the **Estate of Arlette Castro Park, Decedent**. The attorney for Petitioner is **Oliver Manalang Manglona, Attorney at Law**, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by **Allen Pedro Kumagai Castro**, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on **July 23, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana, *Guma' Hustisia*, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the Decedent or her Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **OLIVER M. MANGLONA, Attorney at Law**, at the address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 7th day of July, 2020.

/s/  
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

Oliver M. Manglona (F0489)  
Attorney at Law  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 285-3750 | Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Allen Pedro Kumagai Castro

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

Civil Action No. 20-0212

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:**

LAWRENCE THEO KUMAGAI CASTRO, )  
Deceased. )

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON VERIFIED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR; and**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Judge: JOSEPH N. CAMACHO

Date: July 23, 2020  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Courtroom: Supreme Court Courtroom

**TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE LAWRENCE THEO KUMAGAI CASTRO:**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner Allen Pedro Kumagai Castro has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the **Estate of Lawrence Theo Kumagai Castro, Decedent**. The attorney for Petitioner is **Oliver Manalang Manglona, Attorney at Law**, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by **Allen Pedro Kumagai Castro**, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on **July 23, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana, *Guma' Hustisia*, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the Decedent or her Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **OLIVER M. MANGLONA, Attorney at Law**, at the address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 7th day of July, 2020.

/s/  
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

**NMTI**  
NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

**Board of Trustees Special Meeting**

at NMTI, Lower Base  
July 15, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

**AGENDA**

- Meeting Called to Order  
(Establishment of a quorum)
- Adoption of Agenda
- A. Committee on Transition
  - Members
  - Transition Plan
  - Transition Report
- B. Letter to the Governor
- Adjournment

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD**  
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court  
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814  
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net  
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 8am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

**AGENDA**

- Meeting Call to Order
- Determination of Quorum
- Review and Adoption of Agenda
- Review and Adoption of Minutes (06/24/2020)
- Public Comments
- Chairperson's Report
- Director's Report
- Investigator's Report
- Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  - Governor's Office
  - Legislature
- Old Business
- New Business
- Pending Applications for Board's Review
  - New Application
    - Pasatiempo (Physician) - Update
    - Seby (Temporary Physician) – Update
    - Wells Pharmacy Network, LLC (For Executive Session)
  - Renewal Applications
- Miscellaneous Business
- Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- Announcements
  - Next Meeting Date
  - Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH  
Chairman



# Man arrested for alleged threat

On Thursday, July 9, 2020, at about 5:16pm, a screenshot was sent in by several concerned citizens for detectives to review regarding a comment that was made on a social media platform where an individual, John Michael Dalangin, allegedly commented “Someone kill that guy already” in a post related to the Northern Islands trip of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and YouTube influencer Robert Arrington.

At about 6:10pm, police were able to locate Dalangin and schedule him for further questioning. Dalangin told

police that he had posted the comment through his online Facebook page. It was not immediately clarified whether his comment was directed at Torres, Arrington, or anyone else in his party

At 6:39pm, Dalangin was arrested and transported to the Kanoa Resort in Chalan Kanoa for COVID-19 clearance before being taken to the Department of Corrections to be booked and detained.

The department later is-



**Dalangin**

sued a statement that thanks the public “for being vigilant and reporting these types of comments. These types of threats will not be taken lightly as the safety and wellbeing of each and every citizen is

our number one priority. If you know someone who is making threats online or toward an individual, do not hesitate to call 911. If you would like to remain anonymous, call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272.” **(PR)**

## July 12 is deadline to file income tax

**BARRIGADA, Guam**—The Guam Department of Revenue and Taxation is reminding all taxpayers—individuals, trusts, estates, corporations, and other non-corporate tax filers—that the deadline to file and pay any tax due for their 2019 Guam Income Tax Return is Wednesday, July 15, 2020.

*Editor's Note: The CNMI Division of Revenue and Taxation has the same deadline.*

DRT reminds taxpayers that servicing has been adjusted so that the department can adhere to the governor’s mandates prescribed in Pandemic Condition of Readiness 2. Taxpayers who arrive at the DRT Barrigada location will be guided

to enter and exit the building by DRT officials.

### Online filing options

DRT encourages taxpayers to take advantage of the following online options:

Online Form 1040 filing for eligible taxpayers. (Review the 1040 E-filing help section of our website at [www.myguamtax.com](http://www.myguamtax.com) for eligibility); and

Online filing of individual income tax extensions.

### Filing with payment

Taxpayers making a payment (whether full or partial) upon filing of their income tax return may make payments with their returns at the following locations:

■ Treasurer of Guam cashier

– DRT Main Office Barrigada  
■ Collection Branch – DRT Main Office Barrigada  
■ DRT Drop Box (payments by check only) – DRT Main Office Barrigada  
■ Treasurer of Guam cashier – ITC Building, Tamuning  
■ Treasurer of Guam cashier – DPW Business License Permit Center

### Filing without payment

■ DRT Main Office Barrigada 8am to 5pm  
■ DRT Drop Box  
■ By U.S.P.S.

Contact the Income Tax Processing Branch at 635-1809/1840/1841/1842/1857 or email general questions to [pin-admin@revtax.guam.gov](mailto:pin-admin@revtax.guam.gov). **(PR)**



## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • Website: [www.cpa.gov.mp](http://www.cpa.gov.mp)

## INVITATION FOR BID PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-002-20

### PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT HAZMAT TRAILER TO TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TINIAN

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of one (1) unit HAZMAT Trailer for the Tinian International Airport, Tinian. Bidders shall take into consideration all charges associated with this procurement before finalizing their bid price.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning June 22, 2020, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport, upon a non-refundable payment of \$100.00 in cash or cashier's check.

Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing through the CPA Procurement Officer via email at [atudela@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:atudela@cpa.gov.mp) on or before July 13, 2020.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “Bid for Procurement and Delivery of one (1) unit HAZMAT Trailer/IFB-002-20”. One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than **2:00 p.m. Local Time, July 20, 2020**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Bids will be opened at 3:00 p.m. and publicly announced at the CPA Procurement Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport. Bidders are welcome to attend the bid opening. Bids submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any bids received after the bid submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation for Bids; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the bid would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Invitation for Bid shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

#### FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 20-038

Opening Date: June 24, 2020  
Closing Date: Until Filled

### SUPERVISOR, WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATIONS (SAIPAN) (“OS”)

(Re-announcement Ref. #19-029 Rev)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) is a government utility providing power, water, and wastewater services in the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), a U.S. commonwealth in the western pacific. This position is as required by paragraph 11 of Stipulated Order Number One of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This position is sometimes referred to with a slightly different word combination, but the key term is “OS” (Operations Supervisor).

**DUTIES:** The OS will oversee the WWTP operations on all the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota or as applicable. The OS is required to understand, develop and implement a comprehensive sanitary collection system condition and assessment program as required under the Stipulated Order. Knowledge of asset management procedures and application of SCADA protocols are a plus. Understand and use of television and grouting systems for collection system maintenance and FOG (Fats, Oils and Grease) applications are expected. Assist and participate in strategic planning efforts, development of long term planning and visioning pursuits, and grant development applications. Additional duties and responsibilities are as directed and required.

SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

The incumbent of this position is under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water and Wastewater Division Manager or “DM” (also known as the Division Manager for Water and Wastewater) who reports directly to the Deputy Executive Director or “DED” (also known as the Deputy Director for Water and Wastewater).

**LOCATION:** Wastewater Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA  
**SALARY:** \$56,439.00 to \$77,479.00 per annum, Exempt (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION:** One (1)  
**CONTRACT:** Two (2) years; subject to renewal.

#### RELOCATION EXPENSES:

If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Receipts will be required for justification. Other conditions may be applicable.

#### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

**Licensing Requirement:** A current Grade III (Level 3) Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's Certificate and a Grade III (Level 3) Wastewater Collection Operator's Certificate from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or from an authorized alternative (such as from the NMI Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)).

**Education:** Completion of two (2) years of college, with major courses in sciences, math, or other appropriate fields.

**Experience:** Three (3) to five (5) years of experience as a supervisor in a wastewater treatment plant utilizing activated sludge secondary treatment processes.

**Skills:** Demonstrate proven supervisory and communication skills.

**Knowledge:** Thorough knowledge of the operating principles and maintenance requirements of an activated sludge wastewater treatment plant that operates at a capacity of at least one and a half (1-1/2) mgd, including primary and secondary treatment processes, oxygen production, and sludge digestion and dewatering. Knowledge and pursuit of all regulatory requirements needed to meet treatment level specifications pertaining to island water quality guidelines. Familiarity and knowledge of best practices recommended by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and Water Environment Federation (WEF) in pursuit of a standard meeting a utility of Future classification.

#### SUBMISSION PROCESS:

Please submit (1) a cover letter, (2) a resume, (3) a list of references, and (4) a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

- United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail:  
Human Resource Office  
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation  
P.O. Box 501220  
Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA  
\*If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax “or” email “or” drop off your package.
- Fax: 670-235-5131
- Email: [employmentapplications@cucgov.org](mailto:employmentapplications@cucgov.org)
- Drop Off: Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

**POLICIES:** The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law. It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-20-023

#### CHINA TOWN WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of China Town Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; relocation of water meters from private property to right-of-way, installation of gate valve assembly, air release valves, fire hydrant assembly, flush hydrants; existing lateral service tap relocation; restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

*This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.*

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **June 25, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-20-023, China Town Water Line Replacement Project**”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 16, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 30, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Ms. Kirztie Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email [kirztie.reyes@cucgov.org](mailto:kirztie.reyes@cucgov.org) and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Technician Senior via email [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org)

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 137

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
jayvee\_vallejera@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Now we know Trump can be subpoenaed. But will he comply?

**T**he Supreme Court took two cautious, balanced steps Thursday to clarify something that was obvious to everyone but President Trump and his lawyers: The president can't dodge investigations into his conduct, even while in office.

But the rulings were so cautious and so balanced that the justices didn't resolve the battles Congress and prosecutors are waging with the White House over access to Trump's tax returns and other financial records. That all but guarantees Trump's ability to keep his records secret until after the November election, if not longer.

The issues raised transcend Trump, speaking more fundamentally to the questions of who can oversee a president, when and how. In the hyperpartisan environment we live in, Trump will hardly be the last president whose personal papers are targeted by lawmakers and prosecutors of the opposite party. A strong majority of the justices offered some important guidance for how to resolve those fights, even if they can't possibly avert them.

The two cases revolved around efforts by Manhattan Dist. Atty. Cyrus R. Vance Jr. and three congressional committees to obtain overlapping sets of financial records from lenders that did business with Trump or his accounting firm. The president's lawyers argued that as long as Trump was in office, his personal papers were absolutely immune from subpoenas by state and local prosecutors. They also argued that congressional subpoenas were invalid because the committees hadn't shown that Trump's private papers were critically needed to serve a legitimate legislative purpose.

Both of these issues were novel ones for the court, and had the justices accepted Trump's reasoning, they could have pushed Trump and future presidents well beyond the reach of the law and the legislature. Similarly, there was a real risk that placing too few restrictions on subpoenas would embolden prosecutors and lawmakers to engage in even more frivolous, partisan attacks than they already do (as hard as that might be to imagine in Congress' case).

The justices steered clear of both traps. In the Vance case, they held that state and local investigations into a sitting president can continue even though he or she cannot be prosecuted while in office. That's a win for justice; as Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. observed for the majority, the passage of time could make it harder to obtain leads and indict third parties, and even deprive grand juries of evidence that could protect the innocent. And as for Congress, the justices set guidelines that aim to protect presidents from partisan fishing expeditions while still giving lawmakers the ability to obtain information that's not available elsewhere and that serves a valid legislative purpose.

Trump will now fight the subpoenas in lower courts, following the rules the justices laid out. That means his records won't emerge anytime soon, if ever. But all the parties involved have a better idea now what the limits are, as well as the reassurance that no president is completely out of reach.

(c)2020 Los Angeles Times

## THE FEDERAL RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS WILDFIRE



LA-VEGASSUN 2020  
MIKE SMITH

DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAAS

## Sending int'l students home would sap US influence and hurt the economy

**U**.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, made a decision on July 6 regarding international students in the U.S. that will affect far more than just the roughly 870,000 international students themselves.

Based on what I know about the power and influence of higher education in the U.S., this decision could increase the tuition American students pay, cost thousands of jobs throughout the nation and erode America's stature in the world.

Under this new rule, international students may stay in the country only if they attend a college or university offering in-person classes this fall. Otherwise, they won't be able to get visas, enter the country or stay here if they plan to attend one of the many schools that are teaching students entirely online.

In effect, thousands of students from other countries who attend schools that do not plan any in-person instruction this fall may have to immediately transfer to another school or leave the country. Otherwise, they could face deportation.

Against the backdrop of what top U.S. public health officials describe as an out-of-control virus, this new immigration rule puts U.S. colleges in a jam. Schools must choose between bringing students together on campus to comply with the immigration restrictions, or adhere to public health precautions related to physical distancing.

It may be hard to do both if the online option is off the table when it comes to international students. Which means U.S. colleges and universities could take a significant financial hit in the form of lost tuition revenue beyond what they were anticipating as a result of COVID-19.

### Colleges must scramble

As of July 6, more than 1,000 colleges and universities have already released plans for fall instruction. Of those, 60% plan currently plan to offer in-person classes, 24% plan to offer hybrid and 9% plan to offer courses online. The remaining colleges are still undecided.

Now, some institutions will have to scramble to develop alternatives that can enable international students to remain enrolled without breaking the new rule. Schools must report how they plan to proceed by Aug. 1, based on the ICE announcement.

### Far-reaching impact

**By DAVID L. DI MARIA**  
The Conversation

*David L. Di Maria is associate vice provost of International Education, University of Maryland Baltimore County. This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license. The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.*



The impact of this rule is not just limited to the hundreds of thousands of international students enrolled at U.S. colleges, who represent 4.39% of the 20 million people who currently attend U.S. colleges and universities. It also affects their institutions, their faculty and the local communities as well.

Consider that colleges and universities, which are the largest employers in 1 in 5 states, are already reeling from heavy financial losses associated with the pandemic.

While many schools have had to slash budgets due to refunds issued to students in the spring of 2020, disruptions to research, canceled athletic events and cuts to state funding, others are still waiting to see whether or not they will meet their enrollment targets for fall.

Still, more than 200 colleges and universities have already announced layoffs, furloughs or contract nonrenewals.

At a time when the U.S. is trying to overcome record unemployment and manage its biggest public health crisis in a century, international students seem to be caught in the middle of a partisan divide on reopening the country.

The new guidelines could place many colleges and universities in an impossible position: Increase the number of in-person classes and risk that COVID-19 will spread further.

### What they bring to the table

Given how much international students contribute to the economy, you might assume ICE would find a way to keep them in the U.S.

The students affected by the new rule are the same people who

See **SENDING** on Next Page



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Hyatt speaks out against allegation

By JOSEPHINE MESTA  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I am sure that you all have received the email from Zaji Zajrdhara. Be advised that there is no truth to the spurious and defamatory allegations he makes therein the republication of which would cause further harm to the name and the good reputation of Hyatt Regency Saipan. Mr. Zajrdhara's actions intending to create problems for employers and employees in the Commonwealth to monetarily benefit himself are well known and well documented. Undoubtedly, he is once again widely disseminating false information to the media and government officials with the apparent intent to cause harm to Hyatt's good name and Hyatt's strong commitment to the welfare of its employees and to the CNMI community as a whole, particularly in these hard times.

While the Hyatt should not have to defend itself against the baseless accusations of a serial defamer like Mr. Zajrdhara, in order to quell any misunderstanding of the situation he has caused by his all-caps email, I would like to provide the following actual facts that dispel all of Mr. Zajrdhara's assumptions and the concerns he obviously intended to raise to harm Hyatt. It is generally not the policy of the Hyatt to comment on its internal business and human resource operations and decisions, but we feel that a response to Mr. Zajradahara's false and defamatory accusations is warranted in these circumstances.

Due to the unexpected and monumental effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the CNMI economy, and Saipan tourism in particular, like all of the other resort hotels in the Commonwealth (and presumably everywhere else), Hyatt Regency Saipan experienced a rapid and severe decline in room occupancy beginning in March. By late-March 2020 occupancy was down to less than 28% and government imposed restrictions in response to the pandemic forced Hyatt to shut all of its restaurants and much of its other services for an indefinite and extended period of time.

Hyatt started to lay off its employees in mid-April. We tried

to keep most, but with a drastic drop in occupancy, we had to let go of more, effective July 1, 2020. In order to cope with continuous loss of business, the Hyatt had to furlough and lay off more workers in various categories and with various levels of seniority and an indefinite layoff of several other categories of its workforce, all done according to a non-discriminatory RIF plan and with proper notice to the CNMI Secretary of Labor. All affected employees were notified of the RIF in mid-April as soon as the decision was made to drastically downsize to save the business.

All laws were followed in Hyatt's efforts to mitigate the economic impact of the CNMI shutdown on both Hyatt's business and the livelihood of its employees to the greatest extent possible in the circumstances. Unavoidably, many employees had to be furloughed and laid-off with Hyatt's stated intention of re-employing them, if possible, when the Hyatt's business returned which, we currently estimate, could be as late as next year.

Hyatt Regency Saipan has not evicted a single resident of its staff housing since the RIF was implemented. Indeed, several of Hyatt's employees affected by the RIF continue to live in staff housing to which Hyatt continues to provide full utility services despite ongoing inability to pay Hyatt for the rent. Hyatt has informed these furloughed and former employees that, if they choose to stay, they can do so until PUA and FPUC funding is released, at which time they are expected to pay the rent and utility charges to Hyatt that are being billed and are accumulating monthly (without penalty). For those not called back to service or reemployed by the time they receive their PUA, they will need to pay off the debt to Hyatt and find alternative accommodations as they are no longer Hyatt employees.

Again, Hyatt has not evicted a single person, either actually or constructively, during this pandemic. Hyatt does, however, reserve the right to do so in circumstances that warrant evictions, but until its affected former employees receive, through PUA funds or some other unemployment relief, the compensation they lost due to the pandemic, Hyatt is committed to deferring the monthly rent and utility charges of its law-abiding former employees' temporary tenants—not as a legal requirement but as a humanitarian gesture by a company that cares about the welfare of its employees. Obviously, the rent and

utility deferral situation cannot go on forever, but everyone is hopeful that unemployment compensation will be distributed soon, giving Hyatt's former employees the means to settle up and move on.

Hyatt Regency Saipan has also maintained the health insurance coverage of all of its employees that had the coverage prior to the RIF and will do so through Sept. 30, 2020. Again, that is not a legal requirement but Hyatt is doing this out of compassion for, dedication to in support of its employees, anyone of whom could get exposed to COVID-19 and incur devastating medical expenses without the continuing coverage.

In the end, Hyatt has always been committed to providing the best care for its employees even in Hyatt's most challenging circumstances because we stand by our words: "We care for people so they can be their best."

No matter what the circumstances may be, we fully understand that when one loses their employment, whether it is because an unavoidable CW non-renewal, a global pandemic, damaging super typhoons or other loss of business, people have a hard time accepting the resulting loss of income. However, Hyatt always reacts to those circumstances as best as it can, in a legal, non-discriminatory manner and always with the interests of its workforce in mind.

So, as you can see, the situation is actually the opposite of Mr. Zajrdhara's fabricated and defamatory accusations. Even a cursory investigation into the true facts would reveal his defamatory accusations as false.

Again, Hyatt Regency Saipan should not have to defend itself against the false accusations of a known agitator, but we trust that his effort has set the record straight and that all of you will disregard and not spread the false and defamatory accusations of Zaji Zajrdhara.

I would like to thank all of you for taking the time to read our side of the story and hope that, although the Hyatt does not publicize all the good deeds we do in our community, I can assure you that we do care for our people and a majority of our employees are very grateful for the things we do, not because it's the law, but because it's the right thing to do.

*Josephine Mesta is director of Human Resources of the Hyatt Regency Saipan.*

## SENDING

From Page 8

help support about 460,000 American jobs.

The higher tuition and fees they pay helps keep tuition lower for American students. But their contributions transcend economics.

Their academic talents help advance scientific discoveries, which are more critical than ever given the nation's ongoing battle against COVID-19. The fallout will be severe should these students choose to study in other countries instead. Australia and New Zealand, for example, have recently made their policies more welcoming.

### Giving ground to other nations

Booting international students would surely reduce America's influence in the world as well.

According to the State Department, the alumni of educational and cultural exchange programs include more than 75 Nobel Laureates and nearly 450 current and former heads of state and government. Having established personal ties, international students often return home as unofficial ambassadors for the U.S.

International alumni are more likely to look to the U.S. for ideas and trade agreements and to otherwise exert influence abroad that benefits U.S. interests.

While the share of international students studying in the U.S. has steadily declined—from 28% of the world's 2.1 million international students in 2001 to 21% of the world's 5.3 million international students in 2019—other countries have made significant gains in attracting global talent due to national strategies.

Most notably, China now hosts nearly 1 in 10 students who study abroad globally, including more students from Africa than the U.K. and U.S. combined. One reason for China's rise as a study destination is its leaders' realization that it is lagging behind the U.S. in terms of soft power with only a few world leaders having graduated from Chinese institutions.

In my view, ICE's new guidance is only the latest step in a steady retreat from global engagement that clears the path for other nations to attract more of the students that might otherwise study in the United States.

# A triumph at Mount Rushmore

If nothing else, President Donald Trump's July Fourth speech at Mount Rushmore clarified the battle lines of our culture war.

The New York Times called the speech "dark and divisive," while an Associated Press headline declared, "Trump pushes racial division." A Washington Post story said the speech "crystallized" the president's "unyielding push to preserve Confederate symbols and the legacy of white domination."

Democratic Sen. Tammy Duckworth insisted that Trump "spent all his time talking about dead traitors."

To be clear—and despite all of this—the media and the left didn't freak out about a speech extolling the valor of Robert E. Lee or the statesmanship of Jefferson Davis. They didn't scorn a speech pining for Antebellum America or expressing ambiguity about the Civil War. They didn't pan a speech that slighted the quest for justice and civil rights throughout American history.

As a matter of fact, Trump didn't mention any Confederates at all. He hailed Abraham Lincoln at length and called the Civil War "the struggle that saved our union and extinguished the evil of slavery." He said we must defend "the ideas that were the foundation of the righteous movement for civil rights."

It'd be difficult to get a more textbook expression of the American civic religion than the speech at Rushmore. It'd be difficult to get a more wide-ranging appreciation of the warriors, inventors, adventurers, reformers, entertainers and athletes that have made the country what it is. It'd be difficult to get a more affirming account of the greatness of America and its meaning to the world.

And, yet, the speech was tested and found wanting. Trump's attacks on what he called "a new far-left fascism" and a cultural revolution "designed to overthrow the American Revolution" were indeed hard-edged, but who can doubt the basic truth of the claims?

There's a fear afoot in the land, as a merciless authoritarian spirit informs a spate of firings and cancellations. The day before

By RICH LOWRY  
King Features Synd., Inc.



*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

Trump's speech, a Boeing executive resigned over something he had written ... in 1987.

The setting for Trump's speech is itself now deemed problematic. A CNN report previewing the event said Trump "will be at Mount Rushmore, where he'll be standing in front of a monument of two slave owners and on land wrestled away from Native Americans."

There's no doubt that Trump is a deeply flawed messenger. But it wasn't just Trump the messenger who was attacked in the aftermath of the Mount Rushmore speech; it was the message.






Patriotic sentiments of the sort that have adorned American oratory for centuries were deemed hateful and divisive. A celebration of the Founders that once would have been the stuff of schoolbooks and primers was considered controversial. A defense of the nation's ideals was waved away. No, nothing to see here—only hate and division.

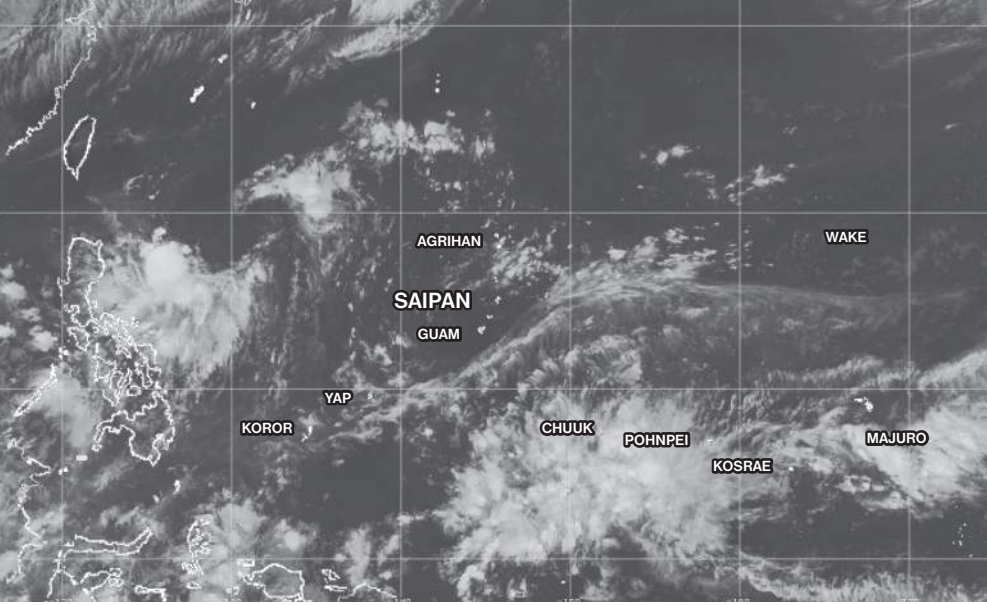
Surely, if some other Republican president had given the Mount Rushmore speech the pushback wouldn't have been as intense. But this isn't just about Trump. It goes much deeper.

Critics of the speech objected to what they said was its wildly exaggerated account of the stakes in the culture war—and at the same time, vindicated that account by equating patriotism with white supremacy.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
90°	78°	90°	78°	89°	78°	89°	79°	89°	79°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:18 AM, SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies, isolated showers and gentle trade winds are present across the Marianas this morning. Combined seas are between 3 and 4 feet at all three buoys.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

### Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

- able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors



CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

### Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 75°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 75°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:25 PM	-
Tuesday	12:34 AM	1:12 PM	-
Wednesday	1:11 AM	2:00 PM	-
Thursday	1:50 AM	2:50 PM	-
Friday	2:32 AM	3:43 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 46°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	91° / 77°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	82° / 69°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	82° / 79°	
Melbourne	Windy	59° / 48°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°	
New York	Thunderstorm	87° / 70°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	97° / 81°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	79° / 59°	
Busan	Sunny	90° / 77°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	88° / 68°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	87° / 72°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	64° / 55°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	90° / 73°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	93° / 81°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	90° / 72°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:32 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.92	
8:22 AM	LOW TIDE	0.93	
1:42 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.47	
7:32 PM	LOW TIDE	0.89	

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)



# Business

## Matson, Inc. christens *Matsonia*

SAN DIEGO, CA—Matson, Inc. (NYSE: MATX), a leading U.S. carrier in the Pacific, and General Dynamics NASSCO shipyard, christened the second of two Kanaloa Class vessels, the largest combination container/roll-on, roll-off (“con-ro”) ships ever built in the United States, in a ceremony at the NASSCO shipyard in San Diego, CA on Thursday, July 2, 2020.

The new vessel was christened *Matsonia*, an iconic name in Matson’s long history, dating to the construction of Matson’s first ship of that name in 1912. Three more ships were given the name in subsequent years; this vessel will be the fifth.

The new *Matsonia* is the second of two new ships being built for Honolulu-based Matson by NASSCO at a total cost of approximately \$500 million for the pair, and the fourth of four new vessels that Matson will put into service during 2018, 2019 and 2020.



Named in honor of the ocean deity revered in the native Ha-

waiian culture, Matson’s two “Kanaloa Class” vessels constructed at the NASSCO shipyard are built on a 3,500 TEU (20-foot Equivalent Units, the standard unit of measurement for container capacity) vessel platform.

At 870 feet long, 114 feet wide (beam), with a deep draft of 38 feet and weighing in at over 50,000 metric tons, *Matsonia* will join *Lurline* as Matson’s largest ships and the largest con-ro vessels ever constructed in the U.S. They are also among Matson’s fastest vessels, with a top speed of 23 knots, helping ensure on-time deliveries in Hawaii from Matson’s three West Coast terminals in Seattle, Oakland and Long Beach.

Both new Kanaloa Class vessels will have an enclosed garage with room for approximately 500 vehicles, plus ample space for rolling stock and breakbulk cargo. They will also feature state-of-the-art green

technology, including a fuel-efficient hull design, environmentally safe double hull fuel tanks, fresh water ballast systems, and the first Tier 3 dual fuel engines to be deployed in containerships regularly serving West Coast ports.

Under the latest International Maritime Organization (IMO) requirements for engine manufacturers, Tier 3 engines reduce the levels of particulate emissions by 40 percent and nitrogen oxide emissions by 20 percent, as compared to Tier 2 standards. Matson’s deployment of Tier 3 engines in both Kanaloa Class vessels is supported by California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to

work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy and improving public health and the environment —

### » New ‘con-ro’ ship to serve Hawaii

particularly in disadvantaged communities.

“Matson is already benefiting from the speed, capacity and improved environmental profile of the three new ships we’ve put into service since 2018,” said Matt Cox, Matson’s chairman and chief executive officer, after the shipyard ceremony. “*Matsonia* will be our fourth new ship, completing a three-year fleet renewal program that positions us well to serve the needs of our communities in Hawaii for many years to come.”

“As a proud U.S. company

and Jones Act carrier, our investment in this new ship is about much more than maintaining a high level of service to Hawaii. It also helps drive substantial economic benefits in and opportunities in communities around the Pacific, where this vessel will operate,” Cox said.

“The construction of *Matsonia* represents over a year’s work for about 2,000 professionals here at NASSCO... engineers, tradesmen and lots of support people and countless others who produced the materials used to build this ship that are sourced here in the U.S. Over its expected lifespan, this ship will generate approximately 4.5 million man-hours of work opportunity for the U.S. mariners who will operate it and decades of steady work for all of the dockworkers and terminal personnel that move the cargo on and off our ships.

“These are all living wage jobs, supporting the families of these American workers and the taxes they pay,” Cox said, adding, “Multiply that by all the ships NASSCO and other U.S. shipyards are building, and you get a sense of the value of the maritime industry to our country and its economy. In California alone, there are more than 51,000 jobs tied to the American maritime industry, providing over 3.6 billion dollars in labor income with a total economic impact in the state of more than twelve billion dollars.”

Dave Carver, president of General Dynamics NASSCO, said, “The *Matsonia* is a reflection of the highest standards of shipbuilding and we are proud to celebrate her launching. This extraordinary vessel is a testament to the hard work, unity and strength of our thousands of dedicated shipbuilders who made this possible.” (PR)

## BOH offers new online account opening in Guam, Saipan, Palau

GUAM, SAIPAN, PALAU—As part of its ongoing digital transformation efforts, Bank of Hawaii announced the launch of online account opening capability in Guam, Saipan, and Palau.

Through its partnership with Terafina Inc., the bank is now able to provide new and existing customers in Guam and Saipan the ability to open a variety of Bank of Hawaii accounts online via its website at boh.com/personal/checking-and-savings. Palau applicants currently must be existing Bank of Hawaii customers in order to access the new online account opening features. The many accounts now being offered in the West Pacific region include checking accounts, savings and time deposit accounts, as well as the bank’s premium Bankohana bundle accounts.

Bank of Hawaii has integrated convenient features, including “Save for Later,” which allows customers to begin the online account open-

ing process, save it, and return when it is most convenient for them. Applications are saved for 60 days from the date of the first login.

“Bank of Hawaii is pleased to be able to provide more digital banking options to consumers in Guam, Saipan and Palau,” said Ruth Erickson, Bank of Hawaii’s executive vice president in the Marketing Division. “Now, more than ever, we understand our customers want the ability to safely bank wherever they are and when it’s most convenient for them, which includes opening accounts online.”

Bank of Hawaii continues to enhance its digital engagement in the growing markets in Hawaii, Guam, Saipan and Palau. For more information, please visit us at boh.com/personal/checking-and-savings.

Terafina (www.terafinainc.com) provides omnichannel sales solutions to the banking and credit unions markets. Terafina is based in Fremont, CA. (PR)

## BOG announces Saturday hours for Hagatna, Upper Tumon, Garapan

HAGATNA, GUAM—Bank of Guam announces Saturday hours for the following branches:

Hagatna Branch and Drive Thru, and Upper Tumon: 9am-12noon, Saturdays

Garapan Walk Up and Drive Thru: 8am-12noon, Saturday

Garapan Branch: 9am-12noon, Saturday

All opened branches now offer all branch services, however establishing new deposit

accounts and loan originations are available by appointment only at appointments@bankofguam.com or other customer support channels for scheduling.

A complete list of all open branch locations and permitted transactions is available on www.bankofguam.com, the COVID-19 Page.

For additional information, please contact Jackie Marati at (671) 472-5258. (PR)

## Disney World reopens as coronavirus cases surge in Florida

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—“The Most Magical Place on Earth” has reopened after nearly four months with new rules in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Walt Disney World’s Magic Kingdom and Animal Kingdom are reopening Saturday, while Epcot and Disney’s Hollywood Studios will follow four days later.

“It’s the chance to come back and be in the magic,” said Diane Watkins, a preschool teacher from Helena, Alabama, who visits the park about eight times a year. “Hot or not, mask or not, we’re just happy to be here. I feel like everybody here is in the same frame of mind. Everybody is just so excited to be here.”

Watkins said that when she

and her 16-year-old daughter walked into the Magic Kingdom on Saturday morning, then saw all the cast members lined up and clapping on Main Street, she cried.

“It was very emotional,” she said.

The reopening comes as a huge surge of Floridians have tested positive for the new coronavirus in recent weeks. On Saturday, there were about 10,000 new cases reported, according to state statistics. Many cities and counties around the state have recently reinstated restrictions that had been lifted in May, when cases seemed to drop.

All of Disney’s Orlando parks closed in mid-March in an effort to stop the virus’s spread. Universal Orlando

and SeaWorld Orlando closed around the same time but reopened several weeks ago after instituting similar rules to protect employees and customers from the virus.

Lori Lovell of Evansville, Indiana, strolled around Frontierland on Saturday morning with friends.

“I have missed coming here. It just feels really good to be back. This is where I’ve made so many memories. It’s kind of our second home. Not being able to come here was hard.”

Disney’s new rules include mandatory masks and social distancing. Visitors will need reservations to enter a park, and they won’t be allowed to hop between parks. Both visitors and employees will receive temperature checks

when they enter. Fireworks shows and parades have been suspended to prevent drawing too many people together.

Park-goers say that nearly everyone in sight wore masks on Saturday morning. Capacity is nowhere near where it is under normal circumstances, they said.

“I’ve been here on spring breaks where you can barely walk around. The walkways are very wide open,” said Lovell.

There were lots of hand sanitizer stations around, and people were respecting the physical distancing cues and guidelines. Since the park is at lower capacity, there was only a five-minute wait for the popular Buzz Lightyear ride—normally it’s about 90 minutes, Watkins said.



# Nation

## Trump wears mask in public for first time during pandemic

**WASHINGTON (AP)—** President Donald Trump wore a mask during a visit to a military hospital on Saturday, the first time the president has been seen in public with the type of facial covering recommended by health officials as a precaution against spreading or becoming infected by the novel coronavirus.

Trump flew by helicopter to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in suburban Washington to meet wounded servicemembers and health care providers caring for COVID-19 patients. As he left the White House, he told reporters: "When you're in a hospital, especially ... I think it's a great thing to wear a mask."

Trump was wearing a mask in Walter Reed's hallway as he began his visit. He was not wearing one when he stepped off the helicopter at the facility.

The president was a late-comer to wearing a mask during the pandemic, which has raged across the U.S. since March and infected more than 3.2 million and killed at least 134,000. Most prominent Republicans, including Vice President Mike Pence, endorsed wearing masks as the coronavirus gained ground this summer. Republican governors have been moving toward requiring or encouraging the use of masks as the pandemic has grown more serious in some states in the



**AP**  
President Donald Trump wears a mask as he walks down the hallway during his visit to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., Saturday, July 11, 2020.

South and West.

Trump, however, has declined to wear a mask at news conferences, coronavirus task force updates, rallies and other public events. People close to him have told The Associated Press that the president feared a mask would make him look weak and was concerned that it shifted focus to the public health crisis rather than the economic recovery. They spoke on condition of anonymity to describe private matters.

While not wearing one himself, Trump has sent mixed signals about masks, acknowledging that they would be appropriate if worn in an indoor setting where people were close together. But he has accused reporters of wearing them to be politically correct and has retweeted messages making fun of Democratic rival Joe Biden for wearing a mask and implying that Biden looks weak.

Questions remain whether Trump will wear a mask with any regularity.

The wearing of masks became another political dividing line, with Republicans more resistant to wearing them than Democrats. Few masks were seen at recent Trump campaign events in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Phoenix and South Dakota's Mount Rushmore.

The only time Trump has been known to wear a mask was during a private part of a tour of

## Coronavirus deaths take a long-expected turn for the worse

**NEW YORK (AP)—**A long-expected upturn in U.S. coronavirus deaths has begun, driven by fatalities in states in the South and West, according to data on the pandemic.

The number of deaths per day from the virus had been falling for months, and even remained down as states like Florida and Texas saw explosions in cases and hospitalizations—and reported daily U.S. infections broke records several times in recent days.

Scientists warned it wouldn't last. A coronavirus death, when it occurs, typically comes several weeks after a person is first infected. And experts predicted states that saw increases in cases and hospitalizations would, at some point, see deaths rise too. Now that's happening.

"It's consistently picking up. And it's picking up at the time you'd expect it to," said William Hanage, a Harvard University infectious diseases researcher.

According to an Associated Press analysis of data from

Johns Hopkins University, the seven-day rolling average for daily reported deaths in the U.S. has increased from 578 two weeks ago to 664 on July 10—still well below the heights hit in April. Daily reported deaths increased in 27 states over that time period, but the majority of those states are averaging under 15 new deaths per day. A smaller group of states has been driving the nationwide increase in deaths.

California is averaging 91 reported deaths per day while Texas is close behind with 66, but Florida, Arizona, Illinois, New Jersey and South Carolina also saw sizable rises. New Jersey's recent jump is thought to be partially attributable to its less frequent reporting of probable deaths.

The impact has already been felt by families who lost kin—and by the health care workers who tried to save them.

Rublas Ruiz, a Miami intensive care unit nurse, recently broke down in tears during a birthday dinner with

his wife and daughter. He said he was overcome by the number of patients who have died in his care.

"I counted like 10 patients in less than four days in our ICU and then I stopped doing that because there were so many," said the 41-year-old nurse at Kendall Regional Medical Center who lost another patient Monday.

The virus has killed more than 130,000 people in the U.S. and more than a half-million worldwide, according to Johns Hopkins University, though the true numbers are believed to be higher.

Deaths first began mounting in the U.S. in March. About two dozen deaths were being reported daily in the middle of that month. By late in the month, hundreds were being reported each day, and in April thousands. Most happened in New York, New Jersey and elsewhere in the Northeast.

Deaths were so high there because it was a new virus tearing through a densely

populated area, and it quickly swept through vulnerable groups of people in nursing homes and other places, said Perry Halkitis, the dean of the Rutgers University School of Public Health in New Jersey.

Many of the infections occurred before government officials imposed stay-at-home orders and other social-distancing measures. The daily death toll started falling in mid-April—and continued to fall until about a week ago.

Researchers now expect deaths to rise for at least some weeks, but some think the count probably will not go up as dramatically as it did in the spring—for several reasons.

First, testing was extremely limited early in the pandemic, and it's become clear that unrecognized infections were spreading on subways, in nursing homes and in other public places before anyone knew exactly what was going on. Now testing is more widespread, and the magnitude of outbreaks is becoming better understood.

## Tropical Storm Fay weakens after New Jersey landfall

**NEW YORK (AP)—**Tropical Storm Fay made landfall in New Jersey on Friday amid heavy, lashing rains that closed beaches and flooded shore town streets, before weakening as it moved over New Jersey.

The fast-moving storm system was expected to continue weakening overnight, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said in its 11 p.m. advisory. The storm was moving north at 17 mph (27 kph) and producing top sustained winds of 40 mph (64 kph), forecasters said.

The storm is expected to bring 1 to 3 inches (3 to 7 centimeters) of rain, a further reduction from earlier forecasts' estimates. Flash flooding in certain areas is possible, as is minor coastal flooding in the tropical storm warning area stretching north from New York's Long Island to Rhode Island.

The storm made landfall along the coast of New Jersey about 10 miles (15 kilometers) north-northeast of Atlantic City, according to national forecasters, and the center of the storm was around 15 miles (24 kilometers) northwest of New York City as of the latest advisory.

Several beaches in Delaware had been temporarily closed because of the

storm. And police in Ocean City asked drivers to avoid southern parts of the tourist town because flooding had already made some roads impassable. Some streets in the New Jersey shore towns of Sea Isle City and Wildwood were flooded, according to social media posts. Seaside Heights, New Jersey, reported a sustained wind of 37 mph (60 kph) and New York City's John F. Kennedy International Airport reported a wind gust of 45 mph (72 kph), said forecasters.

Heavy rain was falling in New York City on Friday afternoon as the center of the storm moved northward.

"We expect some pretty heavy winds, and we need people to be ready for that, and some flash flooding in certain parts of the city," New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said at a briefing Friday morning.

The summer storm's impact on the city was expected to be "pretty limited," but de Blasio said it would be a bad night for outdoor dining—the only sit-down service allowed at city restaurants because of the pandemic.

"If you were going to go out tonight, instead order in and keep helping our restaurant community," he said.



# Asia

## Why India cases are rising to multiple peaks



A health worker takes a nasal swab of a person for COVID-19 test as a policewoman stands guard at a local dispensary in New Delhi, India, Saturday, July 11, 2020. AP

**NEW DELHI (AP)**—In just three weeks, India went from the world's sixth worst-affected country by the coronavirus to the third, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. India's fragile health system was bolstered during a stringent monthslong lockdown but could still be overwhelmed by an exponential rise in infections.

Here is where India stands in its battle against the virus:

### STEADY CLIMB, MULTIPLE PEAKS

India has tallied 793,802 infections and more than 21,600 deaths, with cases doubling every three weeks. It's testing more than 250,000 samples daily after months of sluggishness, but experts say this is insufficient for a country of nearly 1.4 billion people.

"This whole thing about the 'peak' is a false bogey because we won't have one peak in India, but a series of peaks," said Dr. Anant Bhan, a bioethics and global health researcher. He pointed out that the capital of New Delhi and India's financial capital, Mumbai, had already seen surges, while infections had now begun spreading to smaller cities as governments eased restrictions. The actual

toll would be unknown, he said, unless India made testing more accessible.

### DUBIOUS DATA

The Health Ministry said Thursday that India was doing "relatively well" managing COVID-19, pointing to 13 deaths per 1 million people, compared to about 400 in the United States and 320 in Brazil. But knowing the actual toll in India is "absolutely impossible" because there is no reporting mechanism in most places for any kind of death, said Dr. Jayaprakash Muliyil, an epidemiologist at the Christian Medical College in Vellore who has been advising the government.

Official data shows 43% of the people who have died from the coronavirus were between the ages of 30 and 60, but research globally indicates that the disease is particularly fatal to the elderly, suggesting to Muliyil that many virus deaths among older Indians "don't get picked up" or counted in the virus fatality numbers.

### 'NO CENTRAL COORDINATION'

In India, public health is managed at a state level, and some have managed better than others. The southern

state of Kerala, where India's first three virus cases were reported, has been held up as a model. It isolated patients early, traced and quarantined contacts and tested aggressively. By contrast, Delhi, the state that includes the national capital, has been sharply criticized for failing to anticipate a surge of cases in recent weeks as lockdown measures eased. Patients have died after being turned away from COVID-designated hospitals that said they were at capacity. It led the Home Ministry to intervene and allocate 500 railway cars as makeshift hospital wards.

But as the capital rushes to conjure new beds, officials admit that they're worried about the lack of trained and experienced health care workers. According to Jishnu Das, a professor of economics at Georgetown University, there is "no central coordination" to move health care staff from one state to another, exposing India's relative inability to use data to guide policy decisions.

"The one big thing that we're learning from this pandemic is it takes any cracks in our systems and it drives a chisel to them. So, it's no longer a crack, it's a huge chasm," Das said.

# World

## UN OKs aid to Syria's rebel area through lone crossing

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)**—Russia scored a victory for its ally Syria on Saturday by forcing the Security Council to limit humanitarian aid deliveries to the country's mainly rebel-held northwest to just one crossing point from Turkey, a move that Western nations say will cut a lifeline for 1.3 million people.

Russia argues that aid should be delivered from within the country across conflict lines, and says only one crossing point is needed.

U.N. officials and humanitarian groups argued unsuccessfully—along with the vast majority of the U.N. Security Council—that the two crossing points in operation until their mandate expired Friday were essential for getting help to millions of needy people in Syria's northwest, especially with the first case of COVID-19 recently reported in the region.

The Security Council vote approving a single crossing from Turkey was 12-0, with Russia, China and the Dominican Republic abstaining.

The vote capped a week of high-stakes rivalry pitting Russia and China against the 13 other council members.

An overwhelming majority voted twice to maintain the two crossings from Turkey, but Russia and China vetoed both resolutions—the 15th and 16th veto by Russia of a Syria resolution since the conflict began in 2011 and the ninth and 10th by China.

Germany and Belgium, which had sponsored the widely supported resolutions for two crossing points, finally had to back down to the threat of another Russian veto. The resolution they put forward Saturday authorized only a single crossing point from Turkey for a year.

In January, Russia also scored a victory for Syria, using its veto threat to force the Security Council to adopt a resolution reducing the number of crossing points for aid deliveries from four to two, from Turkey to the northwest. It also cut in half the year-long mandate that had been in place since cross-border deliveries began in 2014 to six months.

Before adopting the resolution Saturday, the council rejected two amendments proposed by Russia, including one suggesting that U.S. and European Union sanctions on Syria were impeding hu-

manitarian aid. That contention was vehemently rejected by the Trump administration and the EU, which noted their sanctions include exemptions for humanitarian deliveries. It also rejected an amendment from China.

Russia's deputy U.N. ambassador, Dmitry Polyansky, said after the vote that from the beginning Moscow had proposed one crossing—from Bab al-Hawa to Idlib—and that Saturday's resolution could have been adopted weeks ago. He said Russia abstained in the vote because negotiations over the resolution were marred by "clumsiness, disrespect."

Polyansky accused Western nations on the council of "unprecedented heights" of hypocrisy, saying they were ready to jeopardize cross-border aid over the references to unilateral sanctions.

He said cross-border aid to Syria's northwest doesn't comply with international law because the U.N. has no presence in the region, which he described as being controlled "by international terrorists and fighters" that make it impossible to control and monitor who gets aid.

## Israelis protest government's economic response to virus

**TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)**—Thousands of Israelis demonstrated in downtown Tel Aviv on Saturday, protesting what is widely seen as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's failure to address economic woes brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.

With economic stress deepening in recent weeks, many Israelis think the government has not done enough to compensate hundreds of thousands of workers who lost their jobs as a result of restrictions and shutdowns. Unemployment has surged over 20%, and Netanyahu has seen his popularity plummet.

The protest was organized by unemployed, self-employed, entrepreneurs and business owners who gathered in central Tel Aviv's Rabin Square. Participants wore masks, but did not appear to be following social distancing rules. One man held a photo of Netanyahu with the words "The No. 1 Corrupt Person."

"We are not working already nearly five months and

unfortunately most of us have not received any compensation from the Israeli government and this is really a tragedy," said Daniel Tieder, a protester. "In every country all over the world people have received compensation and support from their government. Unfortunately, here in Israel, nothing yet."

On Thursday, Netanyahu announced an economic "safety net" promising quick relief to the self-employed and stipends over the coming year for struggling workers and business owners. The government is expected to approve the plan on Sunday.

But the large turnout at Rabin Square was a sign of widespread discontent with the government's policies.

Despite successfully keeping the outbreak under control in the spring, Israel's new government, which took office in May, has been accused by some of reopening the economy too quickly. That has caused a new spike in infections that is expected to put more people out of work as a

result of renewed closures.

Authorities now report record levels of more than 1,000 new cases a day, higher than any peak in the spring. The death toll is nearing 340.

After three inconclusive elections in under a year, Netanyahu and his main rival, retired military chief Benny Gantz, agreed in May to form an "emergency" government with a mandate to tackle the coronavirus crisis.

In a statement, Gantz, who serves as defense minister and "alternate" prime minister, acknowledged the pandemic has brought "the largest health, economic and social crisis" in Israel's history. "We understand the public outcry and we will do everything we can to be responsive to it," he said.

In the face of an angry electorate, Netanyahu's support has tumbled. A recent Midgam Research & Consulting poll on Channel 12 TV found just 46% of respondents approved of Netanyahu's job performance, down from 74% in May.



# Health & Wellness

This advertorial  
is sponsored by



Tan Siu Lin  
Foundation

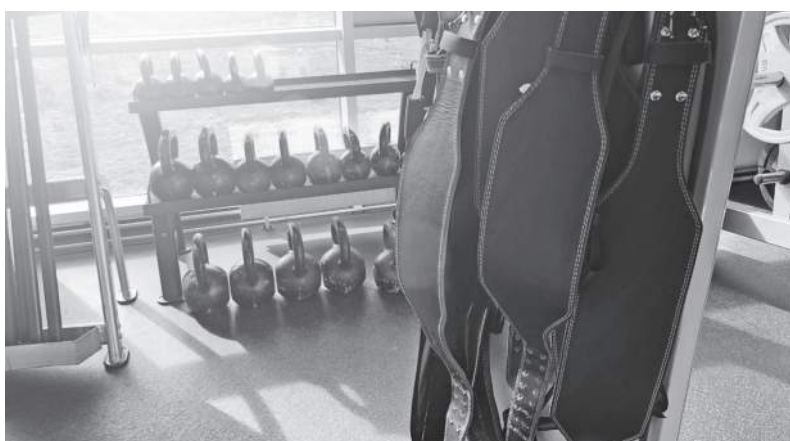
## THE COVID-19 GYM EXPERIENCE: Exercise ‘pods,’ hand sanitizer and lots of social distancing

By MARTHA ROSS  
THE MERCURY NEWS

Katalin vonBerg sweated through repetitions of burpees, squats and reverse push-ups Monday—and she couldn’t have been happier. VonBerg was back at one of the popular cardio classes at the Bay Club in Walnut Creek, Calif., three months after the COVID-19 pandemic forced gyms to close throughout the Bay Area. VonBerg attended the class under new and unprecedented conditions, which other fitness enthusiasts will soon encounter when they return to gyms that have started to reopen.

To enter the club, the Walnut Creek resident needed to don a mask and have her temperature checked, one of the measures gyms are using to prevent coronavirus outbreaks. Her class took place outside near the pool, with Contra Costa County not allowing indoor workouts until July 1. The club also encouraged vonBerg and her classmates to practice social distancing by having them move only within “pods,” 10-by-10-foot squares marked by tape.

With the pods, vonBerg could forgo a mask as she breathed heavily on a balmy summer morning. But the social distancing also keeps the class to 15 people, down from the usual 30.



Athletic weight belts at a gym. Social distancing, no showers initially, pods around classes and exercise machines and ubiquitous bottles of sanitizers and disinfectants are among the features of fitness clubs during the coronavirus pandemic.

The lower-class-size meant vonBerg had to get online a day or two ahead to reserve a spot. Indeed, reservations for classes, lap swimming and weight-room sessions will be the new normal at gyms around the Bay Area.

“I think many members were excited to come back,” said vonBerg, who with her husband has been a longtime member of Bay Club. “It’s been hard to book classes in this COVID era. The funny thing is, once you’re able to make a reservation, it’s like a VIP experience. You have your own space.”

Social distancing, no showers initially, pods around classes and exercise machines and ubiquitous bottles of sanitizers and disinfectants: These are among the features of fitness clubs during a pandemic that already had infected more than 20,000 people in the Bay Area and killed 539 as of Monday.

While the number of cases continues to grow in the Bay Area, public health officials in Contra Costa and San Mateo have given gyms the go-ahead to reopen, even if the facilities are known as “high-touch.” Other

counties have been more cautious about gyms reopening, with Santa Clara, Alameda and San Francisco counties only allowing people to use outdoor pools or exercise areas.

San Mateo County Supervisor David J. Canepa said that officials are dealing with a “balancing act” between preserving public health and kickstarting local economies. There is no question that COVID-19 has struck a major blow to the \$34 billion-a-year U.S. fitness industry, which is made up of more than 38,000 clubs and studios. Of the gyms that closed under shelter-in-place orders, up to 30% may not reopen, with about a third of members saying they planned to cancel memberships, according to a survey by investment bank Harrison Co.

San Ramon-based chain 24-Hour Fitness was forced to close 13 clubs in the Bay Area and 100 nationwide as part of its filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Still, 24-Hour Fitness has begun reopening some remaining Bay Area clubs, instituting a reservation system for 60-minute workout sessions throughout the day, followed by 30 minutes of cleaning between sessions, said spokeswoman Karen Bakula.

Robert Jackson, owner of Forma Gyms in San Jose and Walnut Creek, said some people canceled memberships due to job losses or other financial hardships, while others said they didn’t want to return until there is a COVID-19 vaccine. He estimates his business could be down as much as 25 percent. Strict limits on the number of people in the gyms at one time also could pose a challenge.

At the same time, Jackson said gyms can play an important role in helping the public stay healthy in the midst of a health crisis. He noted that people with underlying health conditions, including obesity, have been at a higher risk for

complications from COVID-19. “As the industry shifts, we have to be part of the solution,” he said.

Like other clubs, Forma Gyms requires digital check-ins that should help with contact tracing if “God forbid” a member tests positive for COVID-19, Jackson said. Meanwhile, his San Jose gym will continue to hold classes outdoors in a covered 50,000-square-foot workout area throughout the summer, while the Walnut Creek club has similarly moved activities outdoors to a 100-by-40 foot tent erected in the parking lot.

Elias Mandilaras, a senior vice president for Walnut Creek’s Bay Club, said outdoor classes also would continue through October, even as employees prepped the 40,000-square-foot fitness floor for the July 1 reopening by marking out “pods” around exercise machines. These pods also have been marked out at Bay Clubs in San Jose, Santa Clara, Fremont, Pleasanton, San Francisco and on the Peninsula.

Mandilaras said the club didn’t lose as many members as officials feared. Some members took advantage of discounts or virtual classes. The company also has started receiving calls from prospective new members, Mandilaras said. “They’ve been stuck at home and want to get out,” he said.

VonBerg said she feels safe with measures Bay Club has put in place and is glad to be back in classes where teachers always encourage her to push a little harder.

Ann Affinito, vonBerg’s teacher for Monday’s class, said older students with medical conditions expressed wariness about returning to the club. But others long to return to some semblance of old routines, she said. “They miss the camaraderie of classes,” she said. “This is a social club, and they missed their fitness family.”

## Cooling Stress Tips: How to deal with boredom to reduce stress

By JUDI LIGHT HOPSON  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Are you climbing the walls these days, pushing hard to overcome the boredom of staying home more? Most of us feel nervous and a little depressed.

We wonder: What are these overwhelming feelings? They are subtle, but powerful. For example, you may feel anxious about the future, sad for what you cannot accomplish now, and angry for being controlled by a health crisis none of us anticipated.

If you reverse some of the boredom, however, this can improve your mental well-being. The truth is, overcoming boredom takes strong willpower. You have to mentally “coach” yourself to get off the couch, get a plan in place each day, and keep rolling.

These tips can help you get a han-

dle on boredom:

- Deliberately do something a little different every day. For example, set aside an hour to begin reading a new book. Or, rearrange the furniture in one room that needs attention.

- Keep a good schedule. For example, get up at 6:30 and go to bed at 10:30. Pencil in key things you want to accomplish. An erratic schedule will make you feel the day didn’t matter. Poorly planned days makes them all run together, so time seems to fly by with nothing standing out as important.

- Get some sun each day, if possible. Try your best to spend at least 15 minutes outdoors. The sun will trigger your body to produce needed chemicals, such as serotonin, for good mental health.

- Do something you’ve been putting off. Call your grandparents or your nieces and nephews. Order

some much-needed paint to remodel your bathroom. Or, pressure-wash your grungy driveway.

The new normal means we have to use nothing short of dogged determination. We have to resist the urge to drink five cups of coffee for breakfast or watch 10 straight hours of TV. Moving our bodies around is critical for physical flexibility and good blood flow.

“My husband and I were getting in a lot of arguments until this past week,” says an accountant we’ll call Tiffany. “We’ve both been working from home and bored out of our minds. When people are bored, they will fight! So, we made a change. Every afternoon about 1 p.m., we go for a short run.”

Tiffany says she and her husband quickly learned how much they needed exercise. “Our joints were frozen and we’ve both gained 10

pounds while we’ve stayed indoors recently. Our run started with fast walking, 30 seconds of jogging, and walking again. Now, we’re getting a little more up to speed.”

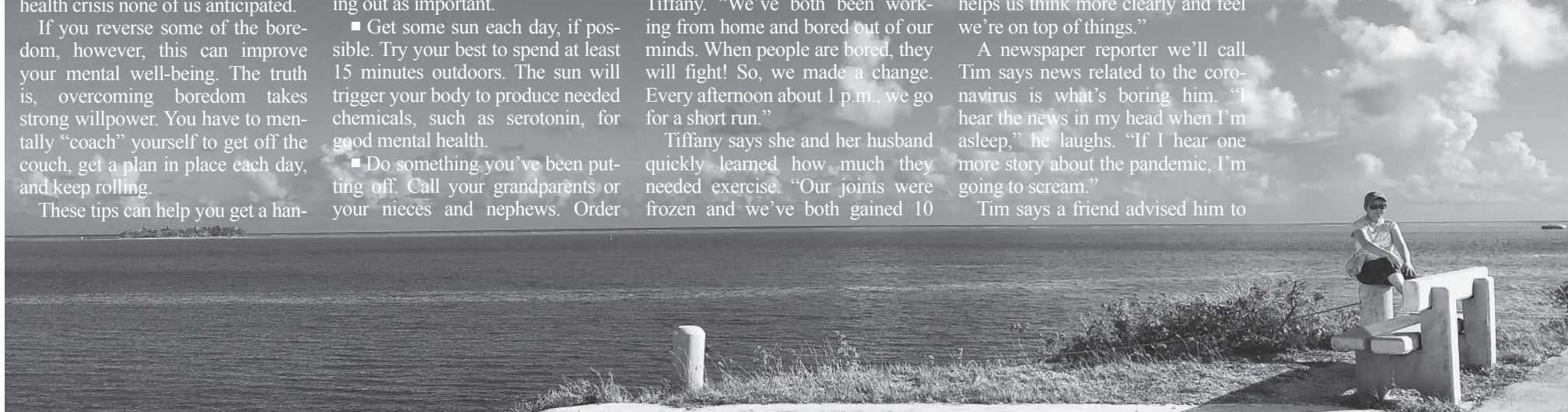
She reports they are not quite as bored or feeling as argumentative as they were. “Having our little exercise routine on our daily calendar makes us feel we’re more in control,” Tiffany declares. “Boredom strikes when you can’t find anything that resembles a goal—or it strikes when you just feel tired. Running helps us think more clearly and feel we’re on top of things.”

A newspaper reporter we’ll call Tim says news related to the coronavirus is what’s boring him. “I hear the news in my head when I’m asleep,” he laughs. “If I hear one more story about the pandemic, I’m going to scream.”

Tim says a friend advised him to

take a two-hour break every afternoon to do something different. “I got busy remodeling my bedroom,” he explains. “I painted the walls, and now I’m getting ready to paint my old bed and dresser. Next, I’m going to order a lime-green rug. At least I’ll have a less boring bedroom when this is over.”

*Judi Light Hopson is author of the stress management book, “Cooling Stress Tips.” She is also executive director of USA Wellness Cafe at [www.usawellnesscafe.org](http://www.usawellnesscafe.org)*





# Life & Style

## Sonar, divers search for 'Glee' star thought to have drowned

By **ANDREW DALTON**  
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Teams are using sonar and robotic devices in what could be a long search for "Glee" star Naya Rivera, who authorities believe drowned in a Southern California lake.

"We don't know if she's going to be found five minutes from now or five days from now," Ventura County Sheriff's Capt. Eric Buschow said at a news conference Friday, two days after Rivera's 4-year-old son was found asleep and alone on a boat the two had

rented a few hours earlier.

Search teams on Lake Piru are towing sonar devices across the surface that scan the bottom for shapes that might be a body, then employing small remote controlled devices to explore the underwater spaces that show promise.

Two such shapes were found Friday, but neither led to Rivera, Buschow said.

Divers are also still searching the murky waters, but fewer are being used than in the hours immediately after

the 33-year-old was reported missing.

"We're putting as many assets as we can out there," Buschow said. "We appreciate everybody's concern out there about locating her, and providing some closure for her family."

Surveillance video showed Rivera and her son parking and entering the boat dock in the recreation area at the lake 55 miles (89 kilometres) northwest of down-



**Rivera**

town Los Angeles on Wednesday afternoon, authorities said. She had experience boating on the lake.

About three hours later, the man who rented them the pontoon boat found the boy alone on it wearing a life vest. The boy told investigators he and his mother had gone swimming, and he had gotten back on the boat but she hadn't.

An adult life vest was found

in the boat, along with Rivera's identification, and her car was still in the parking lot.

On Thursday, authorities said they believed she had accidentally drowned, and the search had shifted from an effort to rescue Rivera to an attempt to find her body.

Search teams were focusing on the north end of the lake, known as the Narrows, where the boy was found, and the east side, where wind patterns suggest it might have been earlier.

## Depp says feces in bed was last straw in marriage to Heard

**LONDON** (AP)—Johnny Depp said in a London court on Friday that he was left embittered by ex-wife Amber Heard's claims he abused her, which turned him from "Cinderella to Quasimodo" in the public eye.



**Depp**

that descended into screaming matches which sometimes turned physical. But he has strongly denied hitting Heard and accused her of compiling a dossier of fake claims against him as an

"insurance policy."

He also said the couple's tempestuous marriage broke down for good after an incident in which he accused Heard or one of her friends of defecating in the couple's bed.

"I thought that was an oddly fitting end to the relationship," he said.

Depp gave a fourth day of evidence in his libel case against a British tabloid newspaper that accused him of physically abusing Heard. The Hollywood star is suing News Group Newspapers, publisher of The Sun, and the paper's executive editor, Dan Wootton, over an April 2018 article that called him a "wife-beater."

In the High Court witness box, Depp has described a volatile relationship with Heard

Depp, 57, and Heard, 34, met on the set of the 2011 comedy "The Rum Diary" and married in Los Angeles in February 2015. Heard, a model and actress, filed for divorce the following year, and the divorce was finalized in 2017.

Depp said one of the triggers for the couple's separation came when a cleaner found feces in a bed at their LA penthouse the morning after Heard's 30th birthday party in April 2016. Heard claims the couple fought after the party and Depp threw a magnum wine bottle at her. He denies it.

Heard blamed one of the couple's Yorkshire terriers, Pistol and Boo, for the defecation incident, but Depp was convinced a person had done it.

## Jada and Will Smith reveal marriage trouble on Facebook show

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—With their marriage under social-media scrutiny, Jada Pinkett Smith and Will Smith reaffirmed their commitment to each other as Pinkett Smith admitted to having a



**Pinkett-Smith**

relationship with musician August Alsina when she and Smith were separated.

In a one-on-one conversa-

tion Friday on Pinkett Smith's series "Red Table Talk," she said she was reluctantly discussing Alsina's reported comments because of the public speculation they provoked.

What started as a friendship and a family effort to help Alsina with his health about four years ago became a "different kind of

entanglement" at a time when she and Smith thought their marriage was over, Pinkett Smith said.

"An entanglement? A relationship," Smith said, prodding his wife to be more specific, alluding to the Facebook Watch show's dedication to candid discussion.

"Yes, it was a relationship.



**Smith**

Absolutely. I was in a lot of pain. I was very broken," she replied. "Now, in the process of that relationship, I definitely realize that you can't find happiness outside of yourself. ... I would definitely say we did everything that we could to get away from each other, only to realize that that wasn't possible."

## Man gets prison for failed theft of Magna Carta in England

**LONDON** (AP) — A U.K. judge has sentenced a man to four years for attempting to steal one of the original copies of the Magna Carta from Salisbury Cathedral in England.

Mark Royden, from Canterbury, Kent, was convicted Friday of using a hammer to try to smash the security case holding the document at Salisbury Cathedral on October 25, 2018.

Royden failed to break the

protective glass, and was tackled moments later by tourists and cathedral staff.

"Magna Carta is a document of huge importance to our country and many other countries that share our democratic traditions," Judge Richard Parkes said in passing the sentence. "This was a determined attempt on a document of huge historical importance."

The judge praised the "courageous" acts of visi-

tors and staff members who apprehended Royden including tourists Matthew and Alexis Delcambre of New Iberia, Louisiana.

Matthew Delcambre told The Associated Press at the time of the theft attempt that he and his wife were sightseeing in the southwestern English city when she saw a man coming out of the disabled persons bathroom with a hammer.

After she tried to alert others, Delcambre and other bystanders banded together to try to hold the thief back behind the doors of the cathedral's Chapter House.

When the thief pushed past them, Delcambre gave chase into an outer courtyard. He grabbed the man's arm near the courtyard gate and knocked away the hammer. A church employee tackled Royden and held him down.

## Friend lets woman take the fall for her divorce

**DEAR ABBY:** "Darlene" and I have been friends for 40 years. She moved to Arizona with me in the '80s from Michigan. Her boyfriend drove out and convinced her to return to Michigan and get married, which she did, but she's always hated Michigan. She raised two girls. I was always called "Aunt" and was considered close.

Years passed and the marriage was struggling. I invited Darlene to come and visit to get away for a bit. She fell right back in love with Arizona. She expressed her unhappiness in the marriage, and I told her that if she ever needed a place to stay, she could live with me. She came out for another visit, found a job and decided to stay.

Her girls, now in their early 20s, were shocked and hurt by their mom's decision to divorce their father. One of them blames me, blocked me on Facebook and no longer talks to me. It has been three years, and when Darlene's daughter comes to visit, I have to stay away. Darlene refuses to talk to the daughter to smooth things out between us. I think she should do something to defend me. Am I wrong?

**WRONGLY BLAMED IN THE WEST**

**DEAR WRONGLY BLAMED:** No, you are not wrong. You did Darlene a favor by welcoming her to Arizona, but you were not responsible for her divorce. It appears no good deed goes unpunished. She should not be letting you take the heat for the fact she left her husband.

Darlene should have explained to her daughter the mar-

riage was an unhappy one for a long time, and regardless of where she chose to live afterward, it wouldn't have been near their father. Darlene and her daughter owe you an apology. Because you are required to stay away when Daughter visits, perhaps it would be better if Darlene found another place to live rather than your home.

**DEAR ABBY:** During my sister's pregnancy, she made very clear that the only people she wanted to transport her child would be her, her husband and our mother. I disagreed, but because of her pregnancy, I kept silent and abided by her wish that I not purchase my own car seat in the event of an emergency. (I don't have any children of my own.)

Now that the child is in day care, I found out through a third party that my sister has listed me as an emergency contact. The first question that came to mind was "Why?" but all I could do was acknowledge the information. Would it be out of line for me to ask her about this, and if she confirms it, to remove my info from her emergency contact? Or should I just hope that I never get called? I don't want to be unprepared, but I know that emergencies do happen.

**TAKEN ABACK IN THE EAST**

**DEAR TAKEN ABACK:** Emergencies DO happen. Lives can be changed in only a moment. Before listing you as an emergency contact, your sister should have asked for permission and discussed it with you. It would not be out

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



**of line to tell her you have just been informed about it and ask why she did it without telling you.**

**While you're at it, ask if the child has any medical conditions you're not aware of and EXACTLY what she wants done in an emergency situation. If you decide to follow through with this, you should know the name of her doctor, what—if any—medications the child is taking, and what hospital the ambulance should deliver the kid to if it becomes necessary, since you don't have a child seat in your vehicle and don't want to risk being cited should you be stopped on the way.**

*For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*



# Pastimes

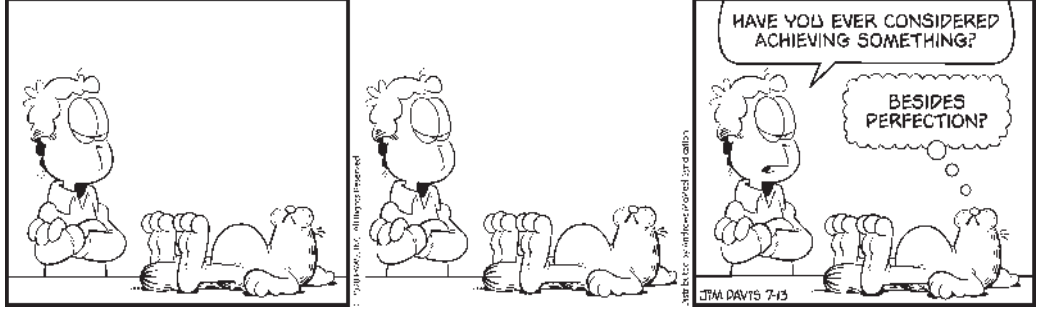
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Telly watcher  
5 Pep  
8 Wound cover  
12 Ceremony  
13 Actress Gardner  
14 Words said with a sigh  
15 Engrave  
16 Group of fresh recruits  
18 Gung-ho  
20 Take back  
21 Winged  
23 Xmas month  
24 Bright color  
28 Persian bigwig  
31 Strike caller  
32 Cathartic drug  
34 Have debts  
35 Yuletide tune

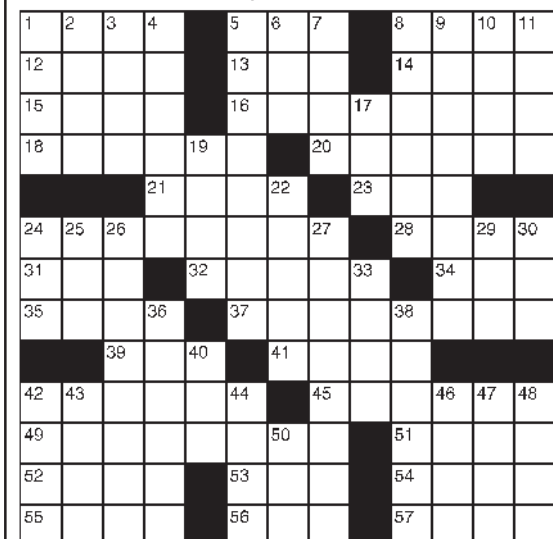
**DOWN**

1 Rabbit's title  
2 Oscar-winner Moreno  
3 Craving  
4 Capital of Iran  
5 "Jump" band  
6 "— had it!"  
7 Bryn —  
8 Ointments  
9 Tot's train  
10 Out of control  
11 Eliot's "Adam —"  
17 Nap site  
19 Priests' garments  
22 Incur, as debts  
24 Cloister resident  
25 Punk rock offshoot  
26 Switch-board worker  
27 Sum total  
29 "How adorable!"  
30 Chick's mom  
33 Competent  
36 Iguana, for one  
38 Pay off  
40 Society newcomer  
42 Chew (on)  
43 "Arrivederci —"  
44 GOP rivals  
46 First lady of scat  
47 Puppy's cry  
48 Prior nights  
50 Badminton barrier

**Solution time: 26 mins.**

T	A	I	S	T	A	C	E	S
T	G	T	O	R	I	N	O	D
Y	O	U	G	O	T	M	E	J
E	S	L	I	E	D	O	O	
A	C	S	Y	O	U	B	E	T
S	H	E	D	S	H	E	H	O
H	A	T	S	A	I	D	S	I
A	T	N	N	F	S	I	L	I
Y	O	U	W	I	N	R	U	N
C	X	O	G	R	A	C	L	E
Z	O	O	M	Y	O	U	F	I
E	N	N	A	E	R	I	E	E
D	E	A	N	D	R	E	C	T

Last Friday's Answer 07/13



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Ken Jeong, 51; Cheech Marin, 74; Harrison Ford, 78; Patrick Stewart, 80.

Happy Birthday: Look for opportunities this year, and you will find something that truly interests you. A business partnership looks promising as long as you don't have an emotional connection. Put long-term plans in place, and subtle changes that will help you construct what you hope to achieve will manifest. Take your health seriously. Your numbers are 8, 15, 21, 26, 28, 32, 48.



**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** You'll be hyped up and ready to make a move. Before you leap into action, consider who might pose a problem, and make a point to take an alternate route to avoid a clash that will slow you down. \*\*\*



**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Keep your plans a secret until you have everything in place. If you present your ideas prematurely, someone is likely to take advantage of you or utilize the information you divulge to his or her benefit. Physical activities will ease stress. \*\*\*



**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Use your attributes to help you get what you want. You'll do far better if you use charm, expertise and honesty than you will by being argumentative or aggressive. Know what and who you are up against; prepare to outsmart. \*\*\*\*



**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Keep your emotions under control when dealing with matters that can affect your reputation or your position. Thinking things through without letting your emotions get involved will

be crucial if you want to achieve what you set out to do. \*\*



**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Be a leader, not a follower. Decide what excites you most, and take flight. Being true to yourself will bring you in contact with people who share your sentiments and pleasures. Romance is featured; show someone you love appreciation. \*\*\*\*\*



**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Aggressive pursuits will pay off. Don't waste time arguing when taking action will lead to the prize. Set goals, include those who bring out the best in you and find a way to get what you want. \*\*\*



**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Concentrate on what's important to you. Look inward, and delve into something that will feed your imagination and enlighten your mind. Personal and physical improvement will require time, energy and hard work. Strive to be your best. \*\*



**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You'll pick up valuable information if you talk to experts or people with more life experience. Look for alternative ways to visit a place and learn something new without putting yourself in harm's way. Travel the information highway. \*\*\*

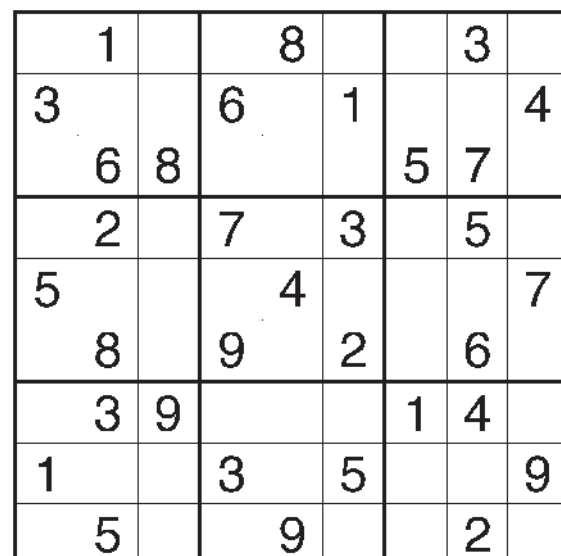


**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Outsmart someone who tempts you. Have your plans ready. The less time you spend with someone who encourages indulgent behavior or meddling and the more time spent with someone who brings out the best in you, the better. \*\*\*

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



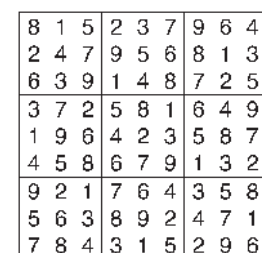
Difficulty Level ★

7/13

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Home is where the heart is, and it's up to you to make it your safe place. Indulge in family projects, improving your space or spending quality time with someone you love. Appreciate what you have, and let your anger dissipate. \*\*\*\*\*



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Make a change only if it's right for you. Refuse to let someone railroad you into something you don't want. Focus on what you enjoy doing most, and use your skills to harness a more productive lifestyle. Romance is favored. \*\*



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Take better care of yourself. Don't rely on someone to do things for you. Change begins with you, so don't let anyone interfere with your plans. Set up a routine geared to achieving better health and emotional well-being. \*\*\*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are aggressive, sensitive and ambitious. You are creative and affectionate.

Visit [Eugenialast.com](http://Eugenialast.com), or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LET'S GO FOR A BIKE RIDE!

Solution: 7 letters

T C R O U T E S E V A E L T N  
R H T A P E B B L E S S L E A  
I H I K E S K C O R E L I M T  
D L E V A R T S E K I G H L U  
N R E N A S A C A K H S N E R  
E O D P E F R R S B U E W H E  
K O I E E E B T O M E M O R Y  
E D R T A E R S T R M B Y A D C B  
E T Y T E A H E S S E G G P B  
W U I E F O R E S T S A L L O  
R O Z P O N D D A O R A C T H  
N E R D R I V E W A Y E R H O  
S D I K B R I D G E I A E G R  
D E E P S E X E R C I S E T N  
N G S S E N T I F L O W E R S

© 2000 Andrews McMeel Syndication [www.wonderword.com](http://www.wonderword.com)

7/13

Beach, Brakes, Breeze, Bridge, Dirt, Downhill, Driveway, Exercise, Fast, Fitness, Flowers, Forest, Game, Garage, Grass, Helmet, Hikes, Hobby, Horn, Kids, Leaves, Memory, Nature, Neighborhood, Outdoor, Park, Path, Pebbles, Pier, Play, Pond, Recreation, Ride, Road, Rocks, Routes, Safety, Sand, Skill, Speed, Street, Summer, Trail, Travel, Trees, Weekend, Work

Last Friday's Answer: Currency

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com), or call 1-800-642-6480.



# Popovich had reservations, but ready for restart



**FLORIDA (AP)—**Gregg Popovich fondly remembers his freshman year at the United States Air Force Academy, even though as a first-year cadet he was extremely limited in where he could go and what activities were allowed.

Lockdown at Walt Disney World, he said, reminded him of those days.

"But two days, anybody can do that," the San Antonio coach said Saturday.

He made it through that freshman year with ease, made it through the two days of in-room Disney quarantine as well, and now the longest-tenured and oldest active coach in the league is free to roam within the NBA bubble in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. That doesn't mean he didn't have reservations about being part of the NBA restart, given the ongoing issues of racial strife, social inequality and the coronavirus pandemic.

"If you're thinking person, you're going to look at all sides of a situation," Popovich said. "And, especially being 71 years old, I thought, 'Is this where I want to spend a lot of my time, doing this, under these circumstances?'"

The answer was yes, and Popovich was running his first practice in more than four months Saturday as the Spurs began getting ready for a playoff push. When the season resumes July 30, San Antonio will be 12th in the Western Conference -- only a half-game from ninth, where the Spurs would have to be and within four games of the No. 8 spot to force their way into a play-in series.

"I honestly do believe—it's not just being a loyal soldier of the NBA, I've done my share of criticizing here and there when I thought it was necessary—I don't know where else you would be as safe as we are right now," Popovich said.

LeBron James completely agrees with that sentiment.

Like the Spurs, the Los Angeles Lakers—the West leaders, with James leading the way back into title contention after six consecutive years of not even making the playoffs—took to the Disney practice courts for the first time Saturday. And James said the notion of not being part of the restart "never crossed my mind."

"This beautiful game of basketball, that brings so many people together, that brings happiness, that brings joy to the households, to so many families ... I'm happy to be a part of the biggest sports in the world," James said. "And I'm happy to have a platform



Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic (77) does shooting drills during a training session at a converted ballroom at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida, Friday, July 10, 2020.

the (hashtag) JamesGang," James posted on Twitter.

Another last-day arrival at the Disney campus was the reigning NBA champion Toronto Raptors, who boarded buses for the two-hour drive from Naples, Florida—they've been there for about two weeks, training at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers—or the trip to the bubble. The buses were specially wrapped for the occasion, with the Raptors' logo and the words "Black Lives Matter" displayed on the sides.

Brooklyn, Utah, Washington and Phoenix all were down to practice Thursday, along with the Magic. Denver was originally scheduled to, then pushed back its opening session to Friday. By Saturday, practices will be constant—22 teams working out at various times in a window spanning 13 1/2 hours and spread out across seven different facilities.

Exhibition games begin July 22. Games restart again for real on July 30.

"It just felt good to be back on the floor," said Brooklyn interim coach Jacque Vaughn, who took over for Kenny Atkinson less than a week before the March 11 suspension of the season because of the coronavirus. "I think that was the most exciting thing. We got a little conditioning underneath us. Didn't go too hard after the quarantine, wanted to get guys to just run up and down a little bit and feel the ball again."

where not only people will gain joy from the way I play the game, from the way our team plays the game, but also from what I'm able to do off the floor as well."

And on the health standpoint, James, like Popovich, raved about what NBA Commissioner Adam Silver and many others teamed together to make happen at Disney.

"They took all precautionary reasons, measures to make sure that we as a league are as safe as we can be," James said. "Obviously, in anything that you do, there can be things that could happen, but we will cross that line if it happens."

But Popovich's age called into question whether he should be at the restart.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says people 65 and over can be more vulnerable to the virus. The NBA has three head coaches who have celebrated that birthday; New Orleans' Alvin Gentry, 65; Houston's Mike D'Antoni, 69; and Popovich. Pelicans assistant Jeff Bzdelik, 67, and Los Angeles Lakers' assistant Lionel Hollins, 66, are not at Disney for the restart.

"We have special guidelines and special things that we have to abide by," Spurs forward Rudy Gay said. "I think going into this bubble, everybody has to take the proper precautions and do their own part ... not just our team, but

other teams. It's definitely serious. It's a serious issue. But we vow to do the right thing."

## Practices begin at Disney

Nikola Vucevic had to raise his voice a bit to answer a question. He had just walked off the court after the first Orlando Magic practice of the restart, and some of his teammates remained on the floor while engaged in a loud and enthusiastic shooting contest.

After four months, basketball was truly back.

Full-scale practices inside the NBA bubble at the Disney complex started Thursday, with the Magic becoming the first team formally back on the floor. By the close of business Thursday, all 22 teams participating in the restart were to be checked into their hotel and beginning their isolation from the rest of the world for what will be several weeks at least. And by Saturday, all teams should have practiced at least once.

"It's great to be back after four months," Vucevic said. "We all missed it."

The last eight teams were coming in Thursday, the Los Angeles Lakers and Philadelphia 76ers among them. Lakers forward LeBron James lamented saying farewell to his family, and 76ers forward Joel Embiid—who raised some eyebrows earlier this week when he said he was "not a big fan of the idea" of restarting the season in a bubble—showed up for his team's flight in what appeared to be a full hazmat suit.

"Just left the crib to head to the bubble. ... Hated to leave

## Wimbledon will pay prize money despite cancellation

**WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—**Wimbledon will pay out \$12.5 million in prize money to 620 players despite the tournament's cancellation because of the coronavirus pandemic, the All England Club said Friday.

After consulting with its insurance provider, club officials said 256 players who would have competed in the main draw will each receive 25,000 pounds (\$31,000), while 224 players who would have competed in qualifying will each receive 12,500 pounds (\$15,600).

"Immediately following the cancellation of The Championships, we turned our attention to how we could assist those who help make Wimbledon happen," All

England Club chief executive Richard Lewis said.

In addition, 120 players who would have competed in doubles will each receive 6,250 pounds (\$7,800); 16 players who would have competed in the wheelchair events will each receive 6,000 pounds (\$7,500); and four players who would have competed in the quad wheelchair events will each receive 5,000 pounds (\$6,200).

"We know these months of uncertainty have been very worrying for these groups, including the players, many of whom have faced financial difficulty during this period and who would have quite

rightly anticipated the opportunity to earn prize money at Wimbledon based on their world ranking," Lewis said.

The pandemic forced officials to cancel the tournament for the first time since 1945.

"We are pleased that our insurance policy has allowed us to recognize the impact of the cancellation on the players and that we are now in a position to offer this payment as a reward for the hard work they have invested in building their ranking to a point where they would have gained direct entry into The Championships 2020," Lewis said.

The club also announced that the grass court seeding

formula used since 2002 "has served its time."

Beginning in 2021, seeding for the men's singles draw will be based solely on ranking, the club said, but there will be no change to the method of seeding for the women.

Meanwhile, the WTA Tour will allow players to count results from March 2019 through December 2020 under a revised rankings system when tennis resumes next month.

Players will count their best 16 results in singles and best 11 in doubles during that window to determine their rankings points. Results usually count over 52 weeks. Players cannot use the same event twice if it was played in both 2019 and 2020.





# Yanks' Chapman has COVID-19; Astros cancel workout



**HOUSTON**

(AP)— New York Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman became the latest high-profile player to test positive for the coronavirus, his diagnosis announced Saturday hours after the Houston Astros canceled another practice due to virus concerns.

New York manager Aaron Boone said Chapman wouldn't "be here for the foreseeable future." Boone said the left-handed reliever "overall was doing well" despite experiencing mild symptoms.

The Yankees are scheduled to start the virus-delayed season on July 23 at the World Series champion Washington Nationals. The AL champ Yankees already were missing star infielder DJ LeMahieu and right-hander Luis Cessa, who both tested positive last week and are still isolating at home.

Boone wouldn't say whether Chapman had been at Yankee Stadium since throwing a bullpen session on Tuesday. He said the team had gone through contact tracing protocols, and no other players or personnel would be forced to isolate because of Chapman's positive test.

The Astros canceled their workout after learning that a staff member could have been exposed to a person outside the organization with the coronavirus.

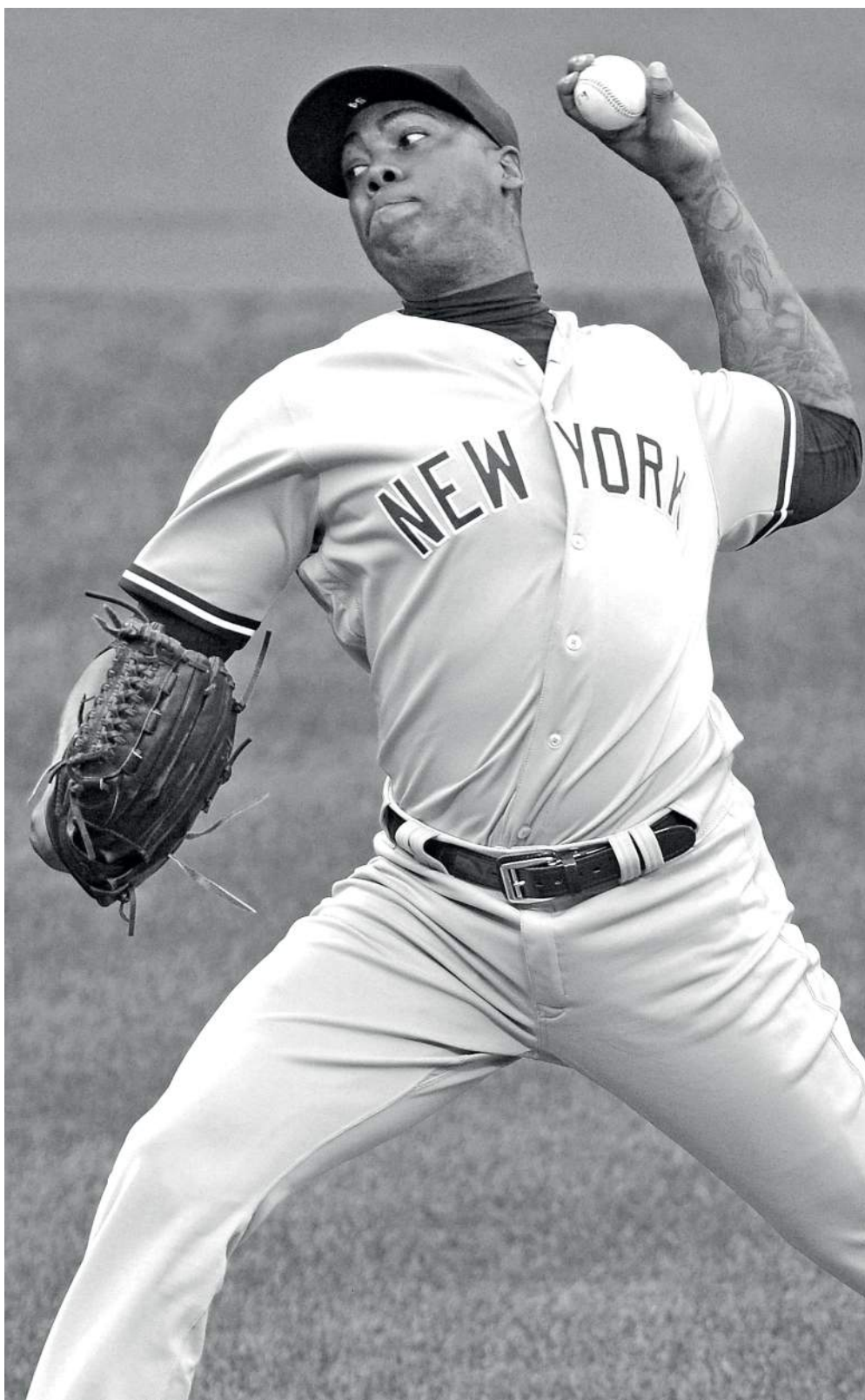
It's the second time this week the Astros have wiped out a practice session because of concerns about the pandemic. Houston also scrapped its Monday workout because of delays with testing results due to the holiday weekend, as did some other teams around the majors.

Houston general manager James Click said they decided to cancel Saturday's workout as a precaution.

"As part of MLB's testing and reporting plan, we were alerted that a staff member was potentially exposed to a COVID-positive individual outside the organization," Click said. "Out of an abundance of caution, we have canceled today's workout. We are working closely with MLB and our team physicians to follow the established testing and cleaning protocols so that we can safely bring our players and staff back to the field as soon as possible."

The cancellation came after All-Star third baseman Alex Bregman was held out of practice on Wednesday because of delays in receiving his test results.

Also testing positive was Kansas City backup catcher Cam Gallagher said he has the virus. Gallagher, who said he is



AP

In this March 06, 2020 file photo, New York Yankees relief pitcher Aroldis Chapman delivers a pitch during their MLB spring training game against the Baltimore Orioles at George M. Steinbrenner Field in Tampa, FL.

asymptomatic, participated in an intrasquad game on Friday night before receiving his positive test results on Saturday.

A day after joining his team for workouts, Rangers outfielder Joey Gallo said that despite two positive tests, he isn't sure if he had the coronavirus.

## Judge scratched

Hours after Chapman's diagnosis, Yankees slugger Aaron Judge was scratched from a simulated game with a stiff neck. The 2017 AL Rookie of the Year was set to bat second and play right field at Yankee Stadium but was taken out of the lineup shortly before first pitch.

Judge declared himself "game ready" earlier this week after being diagnosed with a broken rib in March. The 6-foot-7 slugger used the

coronavirus shutdown to get healthy and had been swinging at full strength for at least a couple of weeks before reporting for preseason camp last week.

## Posey out

San Francisco catcher Buster Posey became the latest well-known player to opt out of the abbreviated 2020 season because of concerns over the coronavirus pandemic, joining Dodgers pitcher David Price and Nationals first baseman Ryan Zimmerman on the sidelines.

Later Friday, the Chicago White Sox said prized pitching prospect Michael Kopech wouldn't play this year. No reason was given for his decision.

Others like Texas slugger Joey Gallo and San Diego outfielder Tommy Pham provided good news: They can get back on the field after previously

testing positive for the virus.

## Pujols enters 20th season

Albert Pujols' 20th season in the majors is about to begin with the Los Angeles Angels. When it does, the 40-year-old slugger is likely to be the oldest player in the big leagues.

Although time has chipped away at Pujols' mountainous talent, he has never believed his advancing age will prevent him from putting up more big numbers on the diamond. His recent years of diminishing overall production have been counterbalanced by still-steady power numbers, and they have done nothing to hurt his confidence -- particularly as he heads into this short season with big plans.

After struggling through injuries that slowed him earlier in his 10-year contract with the

Angels, the three-time MVP is feeling better than he has in years as he heads into the ninth season of that mammoth \$240 million deal. He fervently hopes this will be the year when the Angels finally get their first playoff victories of his tenure.

"When you don't have that hunger and that joy and that passion coming to the ballpark and hanging out with your teammates, that's when you walk away," Pujols said Saturday. "The game will let you

know. But I still feel like I was in 2001 with the Cardinals, when I came to camp to make that ballclub. I still have that hunger and that desire."

Pujols is still a key component of the Angels' lineup even though his West Coast numbers have never reached his St. Louis prime. He is eager to build on last season, when his 23 homers gave him 656 for his career, putting him just behind Willie Mays (660) for fifth place in baseball history.

## Chemistry class: Managers test for right mix amid virus

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)— Derek Shelton needs his freedom. Maybe now more than ever. Fortunately for the first-year Pittsburgh Pirates manager, bench coach Donnie Kelly made it a point to provide it.

Each day Kelly puts together a meticulous schedule designed to find a way for separate groups of players to get their work in during the most unusual training camp in major league history. Shelton's name isn't on it. While Shelton jokes it's because Kelly doesn't want him to "screw anything up," the truth is Shelton's omission is Kelly's way of doing his boss a favor.

Rather than be tied to being in a certain place at a certain time, Shelton instead can float from spot to spot as he tries to play catch up on the kind of relationship building that was supposed to happen organically during the languid days of spring training.

When Major League Baseball shut down for three-plus months in mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it forced Shelton and his fellow rookie managers to get creative when it came to forging the bonds necessary to become something more than a team in name only.

It's a path David Ross of the Cubs, Luis Rojas of the Mets and Jayce Tingler of the Padres are all trying to figure out.

Shelton would crash weekly Zoom meetings with the starting rotation each Wednesday, laughingly suggesting he did it to give him an excuse to get out of teaching his daughter fourth-grade math. He'd touch base frequently over the phone. Still, it's not the same as being together physically. That's what makes Shelton's informal roaming so important, particularly during a year unlike any other.

There's the ongoing fight

with the spread of the coronavirus, the heightened sensitivity to social justice in the wake of the death of George Floyd while in police custody. And the undercurrent of a looming labor fight between players and owners and a slew of rule changes.

Navigating a way forward given the current environment is tough enough for established managers, let alone guys who are still finding their footing in their new gig. The decidedly laid back, '90s alternative rock-loving Shelton presses on by focusing on empathy.

"I just (want) to make sure that I'm talking to them, I'm aware of what they're going through," Shelton said. "It's not just baseball stuff, because we're dealing with a lot more than baseball stuff right now. You want to make sure that their families are OK. If their wives or kids are here, how they feel. How they're dealing with getting testing. It's just general conversations, communication. But try to at least get in front of everybody during the day."

Tingler made it a point to visit as many of his San Diego players as possible during the offseason. The 39-year-old even threw himself into a workout with star shortstop Manny Machado, tweaking a hamstring in the process. He caught a bit of a break when many of the Padres got together informally before the season officially restarted.

"Just getting to connect with people and seeing them work on a daily basis has been a blessing," Tingler said. "Usually you get into the season and it's a complete whirlwind."

The whirlwind started in January for Rojas, who was abruptly promoted by New York less than a month before spring training started after the Mets fired Carlos Beltran for his role in the Houston Astros stealing scandal.



# With new QB Brady, Bucs coach has work to do



**FLORIDA—** In March of 2020, one of the greatest quarterbacks to ever play football left the only professional team he has ever known.

It feels like the shock of that came and went so fast, perhaps because there have been far more important global topics permeating sports.

Have we all just now accepted Tom Brady, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback? I know it's still hard for me to see him in that uniform. It's a challenge to imagine his brand of efficient, over-the-middle passing molding into their offense ... which was volatile but voluminous under Jameis Winston last year. Few think Brady is going to outright fall apart away from New

England but him operating outside of the incubator of "The Patriot Way" is a total unknown. It's going to be an adjustment.

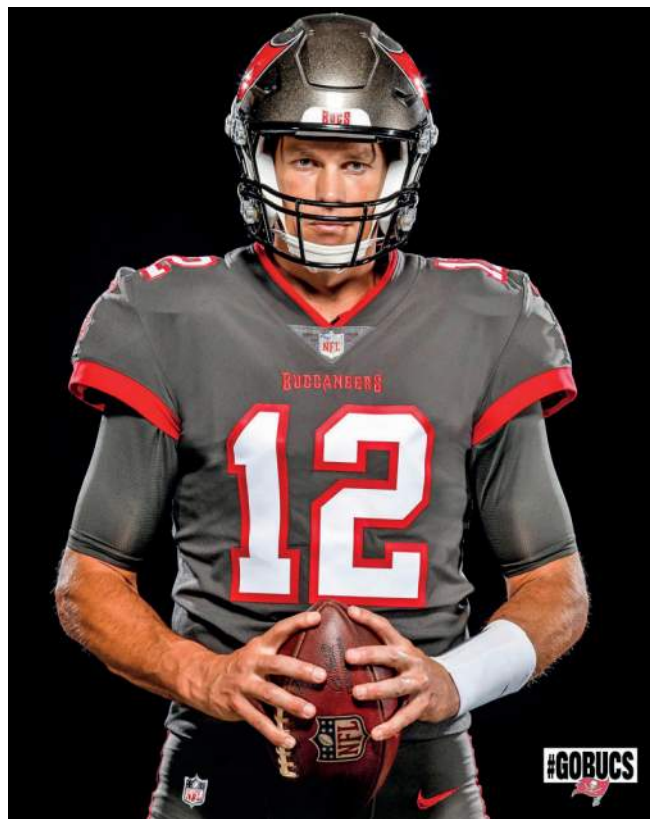
Enter Bruce Arians, the man tasked with orchestrating a successful final act to the GOAT's career.

While Tom Brady, fellow New England ex-pat Rob Gronkowski, and even established Tampa Bay stars like Chris Godwin or Mike Evans might take center stage attention amid this experiment, it will be Arians at the controls.

The entire operation is quite a twist for Arians. He certainly couldn't have foreseen being in this position a year and a half ago. The long-time coach seemingly retired from the profession after the 2017 season following a five-year run with the Arizona Cardinals. After health issues became a theme in his last two years in Arizona, it appeared Arians' time in the league was at its end. Even while he was overcome with emotion during his final news conference as he detailed how much he'd miss the players and the ritual of kickoff, Arians said, "The tears you see are really tears of joy, peace."

He sounded like a man willing to walk away. Clearly, he wasn't.

Two years later, Arians was



**AP**  
The Tampa Bay Buccaneers unveiled one of Tom Brady's photos in uniform.

ston, is over. In its place, Arians has a new mission: Get this ragtag band a Super Bowl win. And quickly.

It's hard to remember a more win-now operation than the current iteration of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. They have a 67-year-old head coach brought out of retirement, a soon-to-be 43-year-old quarterback, and a Hall of Fame tight end who also left the comforts of a post-playing career. The trio represents the most storied and well-known figures of the current Bucs. And they're all likely taking this football thing on a year-to-year basis. It would be a total upset if they're all in the picture by the 2022 season. The "now" in win-now could not be any more clear.

It will be up to Arians to put together an offense that makes sense for all involved in order to quickly accomplish this goal. It's going to be a fascinating exercise, especially given the unprecedented nature of this COVID-19 ravaged offseason. Unlike when he came to Tampa, his quarterback is not an ideal on-paper fit for the way Arians has always constructed offenses. **(NBC)**

## SCC golf tournament scheduled for Aug. 8

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Aug. 8 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Next month's competition is a fundraiser with proceeds going to fund the SSC Scholarship Program.

The tournament will have a two-person scramble format and cash prizes will be given to the winners in the Low Gross and Double Peoria categories.

With restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, organizers will only accept the first 110 players to register. Early bird entry fees are \$110 for SCC members (will go up to \$130 if registration fees are paid after Aug. 3) and \$120 for non-members (will be \$140 after



Aug. 3).

"After assessing our current climate, our board of directors decided to move forward with the golf tournament as this is our primary fundraiser for the SCC Scholarship Program. Students need financial support now more than ever, so we are going to do our best to raise money for scholarships," SCC said in a press statement.

SCC also welcomes sponsorship for the golf tournament and can be done by contacting Maxine Lazlo at executive@saipanchamber.com or call 285-7739.

To register or for more information about the tournament, contact Franco Santos at coordinator@saipanchamber.com or call at 234-7150. **(Saipan Tribune)**

## HOMEGROWN

From Page 20

"The first few weeks were challenging and very different from what we're used to but we did our share; self-quarantine, social distancing, and followed all other restrictions. I'm just glad that we're healthy and safe. NMIFA made various efforts to keep the team in shape. We've had virtual group workout a few times a week and check our daily nutritional intake," said Del Rosario, who is on his senior year with the NKU.

"I don't know Kentucky will handle back contact sports, such as soccer, but I will definitely continue to work out and train to remain fit and improve my skills," the many-time CNMI national team player said.

For Relucio, rejoining the team after undergoing a knee surgery was a relief even though they had to train with restrictions.

"Resuming training at the field with social distancing protocols was an exciting step forward to finally see, play, and talk with the guys. Many of our drills focused on the basics such as passing, coordination, and improving our fitness. A normal tournament preparation would have us



In this file photo, CNMI player Enrico Del Rosario makes a defensive stop, while goalie Chris Aninzo looks on during a training match in Japan in 2018.

training everyday, however during these unprecedented times, the team had to be creative in our preparation so some of us would jog or workout together during our off days. Although the pandemic put a pause on many things, I am thankful that I was given an opportunity to focus on my recovery from knee surgery, as well," Relucio said.

### Forever grateful

Relucio and company may be

leaving the national team for a while, but they will always have the squad on their mind, encouraging the players who will remain on island to keep working hard and thanking everyone involved in the program for keeping it on track despite the challenges we are facing right now. Relucio added that returning to the island and staying committed to the national team is their way of repaying the program and the people who have been very

good to them.

"NMIFA president Jerry Tan, coach Mita (Michiteru), coach Jersh (Angeles), and the entire NMIFA have invested so much on us while growing up under the national team and the youth program and I intend to give back in any possible way I can," Relucio said.

Austria seconded Relucio's thoughts, saying that soccer, his teammates and coaches, are one of the main reasons he will be able to start a new jour-

ney in his life.

"Their support is what keeps me going during difficult times and the reason why I enjoy playing soccer. It's been an amazing time training and competing off-island with you guys. I am going to continue to work hard and learn many new things during my time playing college soccer. For sure I will come back stronger and I will apply what I will learn from the mainland

to help our team," he said.

Tenorio also vows to rejoin the team and hopes players who will stay on island will remain committed to the program.

"Keep working hard and take advantage of the opportunities. We are very fortunate here and we should be honored to play with the coaches and the facility we have. That being said, I'm excited to come back in the future to see even more improvements," Tenorio said.



Ryan Relucio, right, battles a Japanese player for possession during a training match.





Popovich had reservations, but ready for restart

PAGE 17

# Saipan Tribune Sports

Yanks' Chapman has COVID-19; Astros cancel workout  
PAGE 18



20 MONDAY, JULY 13, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Homegrown players remain committed



Abragan



Aninzo



Galarion



Austria



Tenorio



Relucio



Del Rosario



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, standing left, joins CNMI national team players, coaches, and supporters for a group photo during a send-off party for seven members of the squad last Saturday at Micro Beach.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

For seven members of the CNMI Men's National Team, it's time to leave the island to prepare for the resumption of their college classes, but they will return and will be ready to answer the call of duty, again.



Sunjoon Tenorio, Enrico Del Rosario, Ryan Relucio,

Joshua Galarion, Joshua Abragan, Thaipi Austria, and Chris Aninzo were given a send-off party by their teammates and coaches last Saturday after completing their training sessions with the national team. Tenorio, Del Rosario, Relucio, Abragan, and Austria will soon leave for the mainland for their studies, while Galarion and Aninzo are heading to Guam and United Kingdom, respectively. Austria will be playing his rookie season with the Trine University in Indiana, while the six other Blue Ayuyus will return to their respective teams (college and club-based squads).

All seven players, who are products of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's grassroots program, took part in the squad's on-line training sessions for months due to the COVID-19 pandemic and were very happy to also participate in the group's actual practices that resumed last month.

"Although we didn't get to train normally, it was a joy being back and training with them when we could. Players here have definitely improved and it makes me happy being able to see huge developments throughout the on-island players," said Tenorio, who won Rookie of the Year and MVP honors in his freshman year with Suffolk University in the National Collegiate Athletics Association (Division II) and will now play for Warner Pacific University.

Del Rosario, who suits up for Northern Kentucky University FC and plays in Gotham Soccer League in Cincinnati, acknowledged the challenges they faced while doing the online training and the actual practices at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville and is proud that everyone stuck with the program despite the obstacles.

See **HOMEGROWN** on Page 19